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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. X. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 6, 1872. NO. 76.

FIRST EDITION.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

French Situation Precarious.

Committee of Thirty Selected.

Another Inundation in Italy.

The Gas Strike in London.

The Committee of Thirty of the French Assembly.

VERSAILLES, December 5.—The Assembly this afternoon elected the members of the Committee of Thirty proposed by Minister Dufaure. The committee as formed by the Assembly consists of nineteen Deputies from the Right, representing three hundred and sixty-one votes, and eleven Deputies from the Left, representing three hundred and fifty-three votes. What course the government will take under the circumstances is at this time unknown.

Great Excitement in Paris.

World special.]

LONDON, December 5.—The vote in the Versailles Assembly to-day, on the formation of Dufaure's committee, excited the liveliest apprehension in Paris, where fighting is expected. Great excitement prevails at Chiselhurst. Marshal MacMahon controls the army, but will act only in obedience to the Assembly, and not to Thiers. German reoccupation is certain if fighting occurs. Correspondence has recently passed between Bismarck and Napoleon. German reoccupation will result in the re-establishment of the empire.

The Gas Strike in London.

LONDON, December 5.—The strike of stokers of the gas company continues, but the worst is over. The inhabitants have supplied themselves with oil lamps and candles and are now able to meet the inconvenience caused by the limited supply of gas. Several theaters were lighted with gas last night and the performances conducted as usual. The Strand last night was lighted with burning lime.

The Inundation in Italy.

TURIN, December 5.—The waters of the River Po have again overflowed the embankments and inundated the adjacent country. At last advices the flood was spreading.

Miscellaneous Dispatches.

LONDON, December 5.—The gas works at Newport, Monmouthshire, exploded last night, killing and wounding several persons.

Hans Christian Andersen, the poet, is seriously ill.

BERLIN, December 5.—Nearly all of the newly elected peers took their seats in the upper House of the Diet to-day.

Marine News.

LONDON, December 5.—The steamship Maine has arrived out. This vessel spoke the City of Bristol, from New York on the 29th, trying without steam, but reporting no accident.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 5, 4 P. M.—Consols for money 91¾@91⅞; for account 91⅝@91¾. American securities—5-20s of '65, 91¾; do, 67, 94½; 10-40s, 88⅝; do, 68, 89⅛. Erie, 18⅛. Illinois Central, 97. Bank of England increased £15,000.

FRANKFORT, December 5.—5-20s of '62, 96⅝.

PARIS, December 5.—Rentes 82 francs 2 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 5.—Cotton strong; middling upland, 10½; Orleans, 10¾; sales, 16,000 bales, including for speculation and export, 2,000 bales; middling upland, January, 9 9-32. Red winter wheat, 11s 10d. Flour, 30s. Corn, 31s 3d. Cheese, 68s. Cumberland middles, 40s; short rib middles, 40s. Spirits—petroleum 1s; refined 2s.

CRIMES.

Murder Near Marion, Indiana—Escape of the Murderer.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MARION, Ind., December 5, 1872.

Our community was thrown into a great excitement this morning by the murder of Elijah Crevison, living some seven miles northeast of Marion, by Ivery Myers, a stranger, who had recently came into the county. Mr. Crevison went early this morning into his stable for the purpose of feeding his horses, when Myers, who was secreted in one corner of the stable, attacked him down with a piece of a broken fork handle, and then stabbed him some two or three times, inflicting wounds from which he died this evening. The murderer made good his escape, and as yet the Officers and citizens are in pursuit, but up to the present writing the scoundrel has not been taken.

A Man Shoots His Wife and Then Kills Himself.

SALT LAKE, December 6.—A man named Griffith, a watchman, went to the dwelling of his wife today, who separated from him because of brutal treatment, and commenced shooting at her through a door he was interfered, when Griffith drew a revolver and fired but missed the negro. He then pursued his wife three times and shot her, inflicting mortal wounds. He then shot himself and died in a few minutes.

A Desperado Killed.

CINCINNATI, December 5.—A report came to Covington to-night and is believed there that on Tuesday night, at Williamstown, in Grande county, Gen. Leslie Coombs shot through the heart and killed a desperado named George Merrill, but not before he got a pistol ball in his own hand. Merrill says Merrill fired upon one Alex. Miller, at Williamstown the night previous.

Horrible Murder in Marion, Indiana.

CINCINNATI, O., December 5.—A special to the *Gazette* from Marion, Grant county, Indiana, says: Elijah Crevison, of Washington county, entering his stable this morning was attacked and killed by a person concealed behind the door. Crevison grasped his antagonist, clowned him, and beat him until, on his begging humbly, Crevison let him up. The villain instantly stabbed Crevison in the breast, inflicting a wound from which he died this afternoon. The whole neighborhood is aroused, and the murderer is hotly pursued though fleeing on horseback. Crevison said it was Ivery Myers, also Curry, who worked as a hand on a neighboring farm. It is supposed he meant robbery, as the murdered man had just sold two thousand dollars worth of stock.

CASUALTIES.

Messenger Boy at Alliance Fatally Injured.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MASSILLON, December 5, 1872.

W. S. Tidball, messenger boy at Alliance telegraph office, was caught by an engine last night in front of the station house, while backing from yard to the house, and both legs badly crushed. He died at 10 P. M.

Expedient Repeated With Usual Results.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PIKEVILLE, OHIO, December 5, 1872.

An accident happened yesterday about two miles south of here. A young man named Edward Mills, after eating his dinner, took his gun down and was blowing in it to see if it was loaded, and having his foot on the lock it slipped and the gun went off, passing him through the head. He died shortly after.

Brakeman Probably Fatally Injured.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

GLENDALE, O., December 5, 1872.

Last evening as the train on the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad was nearing this place, Thomas Moran, brakeman, fell from a platform of a car, while running at full speed, and sustained injuries which, it is feared, will prove fatal. He was picked up in an insensible condition and removed to his home in Dayton, where he now lies in a critical condition.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

The Dual Body In Alabama.

MONTGOMERY, December 5.—The Capitol body balloted for Senator without result and adjourned until to-morrow, owing to the contest as to whether elect who had not taken his seat with that body, but with the Court House body. The Court House body did nothing. One of its members, Bennetts, died during the night. This is the second death since the opening of the session. Senator Spencer left this morning for Washington.

Ohio Horticultural Association Meeting.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ZANESVILLE, O., December 5, 1872.

The second days' proceedings of the State Horticultural Society were very interesting and well attended. T. Warden, President of the Society, displays one hundred and twenty-one varieties of apples. The display of fine fruits was never equaled in the State. A committee was appointed to prepare a memorial to Congress asking that the postal law be so amended as to permit the mailing of packages of four pounds or less at the rate of two cents for four ounces. Election of officers and adjournment to-morrow.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The steamship North American, overdue from Liverpool, put into Sydney short of coal. The Idaho, from Liverpool, has arrived at New York.

N. Aaronson, jeweler, from New York, was robbed in Chicago Wednesday night of about $16,000 worth of stock, taken from his trunk at Kuhn's European hotel.

A jury was obtained in Memphis yesterday in the case of General J. W. S. Brown, a Rifling Captain Theodore Adams last spring for the seduction of his daughter. The case will probably occupy the remainder of the week.

Kinsler, a half-breed Sioux, was convicted of murder and sentenced by Chief Justice Fisher to be hung, January 2, in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, yesterday.

T e Philadelphia police raided upon North street gambling establishments and captured thirteen persons.

That portion of Grant's message relative to Utah affairs is the source of much irritation to the Mormons authorities.

The jury in the case of inquest on the body of Florence Ritter who died last Tuesday night in Covington, brought in a verdict yesterday that she came to her death in consequence of "reckless and careless operations performed by her attending physician, John W. King. She was fifteen years old and was under King's treatment for disease of the womb.

SERIOUS COLLISION

On the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Two Pullman Cars Telescoped.

Five Persons Killed and Five Injured

MIFFLIN, PA., December 5.—A terrible accident occurred on the Pennsylvania Central Railroad, about fifty miles west of Harrisburg, this evening. The second section of the Cincinnati express, bound east, ran into the rear of the first section, and telescoped two Pullman cars. Five bodies have been removed from the debris.

The names of the killed are as follows: Matthew Knowles and J. W. Bacon, both of Chicago, and W. W. Dantz, wife and child, of Green Lake, Wisconsin. Five persons were injured, none seriously. Every person on the second train escaped uninjured.

XLII CONGRESS.

THIRD SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5, 1872.

SENATE.

Petitions were presented for a prohibitory liquor law.

Bills were introduced by Mr. LEWIS, of Virginia, to amend the bankrupt law; by Mr. WRIGHT, of Iowa, for extending the time for the construction of the railroad from McGregor to the west end of O'Brien county; by Mr. PERRY, of Michigan, for a court house and post office at Grand Rapids; by Mr. LOGAN, to facilitate the administration of justice.

Mr. RICE, of Arkansas, unsuccessfully attempted to call up his resolution asking why troops are to be sent to Arkansas.

On motion of Mr. SCOTT the Secretary of War was requested to furnish a list of officers retired or asking to be retired.

On motion of Mr. MORTON the President was requested to communicate information concerning the slave trade in East Africa, and the measures taken by Great Britain and other governments for its suppression.

Mr. SUMNER said, in view of the reorganization of committees, that he was compelled, by instructions from his physicians, to ask to be excused from service on any committee.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vermont, called up the bill for the endowment of national colleges and spoke thereon.

At the conclusion of Mr. MORRILL'S address the further consideration of the bill was postponed for a week, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House resumed the bill pending for ten more sloops of war.

Mr. POTTER contended that it was not practicable for vessels of five or six hundred tons to carry ten large guns; that the statement made by Mr. Pratt, chairman of the Naval Committee, was not correct, but that the statement made by Mr. Pratt, that such vessels were to be from fifteen hundred to two thousand tons, was nearer the mark. Such vessels could not be built for anything like the amount mentioned. Such vessels for man-of-war purposes would coal from eight hundred thousand to one million dollars. He believed the actual cost of these vessels would approach one million five hundred. He contended that the House to which better information than it had received on the subject, and to have matured plans submitted for the creation of a navy before being called upon to vote for this bill.

Mr. COX argued that Messrs. Hale and Scofield had contended that the plan each proposed for building ships was reckless. One differed from the other in facts as jobs, the other the navy yards as prodigal and wasteful. Both these gentlemen had not been enough on the mis hiefs that require reform. The navy yards need reform, especially as to employees and politics. While these gentlemen rose, and had implied 'jobbery of private contracts? As this bill was an immature make-shift, and the amendments ought to be done, he favored reducing the number of sloops to six—three to be built in private yards, three in navy yards, and he accordingly moved to that sum until more information or a better plan be given.

Mr. BECK opposed the bill on the ground that moneys heretofore appropriated for such purposes had been spent on worthless ships, four hundred and seventy-one of which were sold in the past five years, in ways that Congress knew nothing of. They were sold to the lowest instead of the highest bidder. He didn't know but these ten vessels would be declared unfit for service and sold before they had been built a year. It had not been charged in the Senate by Mr. Hamlin, that one ship after her vessel had been sold for $19,000, which, after getting one coat of paint was sold again for $120,000 in the course of a week.

Mr. KERR urged a postponement of the bill, as the House was in possession of information, in fact intelligently, for the Secretary of the Navy's report was extremely and disrepatably void of such information. He also opposed the bill because the country did not aspire to be a great military or naval power. The ships are useless in war when afloat, and floating, and could be further reduced with advantage. The security of the United States was to be found, not in a great standing navy, but on effectually exists in the concrete power of a mighty nation. What was of more importance was a reform of the existing scandalous laws affecting our relations with other nations, so there could be built up a great powerful commercial marine.

Mr. COGHLAN opposed and Mr. RANDALL supported the amendment to build ten iron vessels built in private yards.

The debate was continued by Messrs. ARCHER, L. MYERS, LYNCH, HALE and SCOFIELD, all in favor of the bill, Mr. HALE defending the Navy Department from the aspersions cast upon it, and Mr. SCOFIELD, Chairman of the Naval Committee, urging that all vessels could be constructed in the navy yards sooner and better than in private yards.

Mr. GARFIELD offered an amendment providing that no contract or order for the construction of these vessels be made until full, detailed estimates were submitted to Congress and appropriations made therefor.

Mr. SARGENT opposed the amendment as dilatory, and advocated the bill.

Mr. SHELLABARGER favored the construction of vessels saying less than six guns as more effective in enforcing the neutrality laws, for which, he stated, on the authority of the Secretary of the Navy, a much better hull in every case been had to the revenue cutter service.

Mr. LEONARD MYERS said the bill gave the Secretary full authority to build these vessels. No doubt six or seven of them would be built in the navy yards, but it would still be optional for the Secretary to build several at private yards. This discretion he (Mr. L. Myers) believed all would approve. The Canadian stations, southwesterly to northwesterly winds, clearing and colder weather, with higher barometer to-morrow. In the Gulf and South Atlantic States clearing weather and occasional light rain, with northerly winds and lower temperature to-morrow.

Official Representation of Louisiana.

NEW ORLEANS, December 5.—To the Governor's proclamation this morning is appended the full returns, showing the vote for each Representative and Senator in every parish in the State, and certified by the returning board and Secretary of State. It having been asserted that 15,000 to 30,000 voters were denied registration, the following is given as the vote of 1870. Republican, 84,549; Democratic, 41,410; total 126,642. Vote this year, Republican, 60,237; Democratic, 66,169; total, 126,492. Increase since: 1870—total, 21,850. Comparative vote of contested parishes; Vote of 1870—Caddo, 2,532; Natchitoches, 2,906; Rapides, 3,703. Vote this year—Caddo, 3,230; Natchitoches, 3,360; Rapides, 3,129. The new parish of De Soto and Vernon were in part since 1870, taken from Natchitoches, which will account for the decrease of the vote in that parish. It is asserted in Kellogg's bill that one thousand voters were refused registration in Caddo and Rapides. These parishes show an increase since 1870—Caddo, 86; Rapides, 56.

Suspended from the Ministry.

CINCINNATI, December 4.—The Reformed Church National Synod to-day suspended from the ministry and from the church Rev. Henry Knepper, of Illinois, on the ground that he married after obtaining a divorce, which, though legal, was not procured on scriptural grounds.

THE GREAT DIAMOND FRAUD

How a Monster Swindle Was Worked Up.

A Six Hundred Thousand Dollar Robbery.

San Francisco papers of the 26th and 27th ult., contained full official reports on the great diamond fraud, with copious additional particulars of the manner in which it was worked up and imposed upon the credulity of some of the shrewdest financiers on the Pacific coast. It is one of the most remarkable swindles ever perpetrated, and was near being one of the most disastrous. In thirty days more, but for the complete and timely *expose* by Clarence King, no less than twelve million dollars of the stock would have been put upon the market, a large portion of it on the Atlantic side of this continent, and in Europe, where, it is reported, the great house of Rothschild was ready to place some of it. So confident were some of the leading parties in San Francisco of the value of the alleged discoveries, that extraordinary precautions were used to prevent the locality being known, and the sum of their own expenditures to secure the ground is probably not under $500,000 in gold. It is most astonishing that leading citizens of recognized shrewdness in all money matters should have been so duped, and that the engineer who was employed to investigate the alleged diamond fields should also have fallen into the trap set for him by most adroit and unconscionable villians. As yet the public cannot tell who were the deceivers and who the deceived, but it is known that a most elaborate swindle has been perpetrated; that $20,000 worth of small rough diamonds were purchased in London and used in salting the ground selected for the operations of the claim speculators; and that they were working up the diamond fever adroitly with a view to launching their stock on the market when a United States geologist detected the fraud and wrote it to atoms. The following account of their discoveries is from the San Francisco *Chronicle* of the 27th:

THE RATIFICATION OF THE JOB.

Now that the whole thing has been officially declared a fraud, it is quite interesting to know how the job was put up and all about it. Janin, perhaps, is not criminally to blame, although his reputation as a geologist and mining engineer will have received a blow by this from which it will be hard for him to recover. His first connection with the affair seems to have been a telegram in the spring, where he was approached by Harpending, General Dodge, and Arnold, the "discoverer" of the wonderful Golconda. They told him that Arnold and Slack had made two trips to the diamond fields, securing a few stones and finding a gulch in my opinion valued at $1,000,000, which had been sealed and deposited in the Bank of California, and that Slack had a bag of gems valued at $250,000, the latter being deposited in the banking-house of William B. Dana & Co., New York.

WHAT TIFFANY TOLD JANIN.

Besides all this, Janin was taken to the private residence of Tiffany, the great jeweler of Broadway, told him, in presence of Sam Barlow, Gen. McClellan and other parties, that the estimated value of the gems in Duncan's bank was $150,000. This statement, coming from such a responsible source, could not fail to disarm whatever suspicion there was in Janin's mind, and the consequence was he was very effectually roped in. Harpending and Dodge told Janin that Arnold needed $10,000 for his first trip, and by smarty plausible statements led Janin to advance the money. Another New York gentlemen promised Janin that he should have two weeks to examine the property, with all the geological formation, and when once he reached the spot they kept him employed in surveying and making plans for a R. R. to the fields. When the work began to prospect, Dodge and Harpending hurried him away, and, fearful lest Janin should make his first report in New York, in which he says:

HOW JANIN WAS HURRIED AWAY.

I had only time to gather samples from those portions of the ground where the gems were found, which are marked on the accompanying plat. At each one of the points numbered diamonds or rubies were found, as per inclosed samples. These points were over close to the line, a mile distant from the original discovery and shows a very large area in which diamond and ruby bearing. The samples were taken from the surface. It is probable that at a greater depth larger and better stones will be found, but the amount of prospecting done was insignificant and does not enable me to form a judgment as to the extent or limits either of the one or both of the only moderately rich grounds. I have in the course of a week, or ten days, time to make a report. Then the latter made the report that was printed yesterday, and which, it will be seen, bears date November 11.

THE BUBBLE BURST.

The report was so comprehensive, so convincing, that the directors' agents turned white when they heard it read. They at once resolved to ferret the thing out, and for that purpose Gen. Colton's expedition was fitted out, and Mr. King kindly consented to accompany it with Mr. Janin. The whole matter was kept strictly private, not even the principal shareholders knowing anything of it. The only persons who knew of the exposure were Mr. King, Janin, Ralston, Lent and Colton, with the two who accompanied him on the expedition, Messrs. E. M. Fry, the feelings of Messrs. Ralston and Lent during the absence of Colton's party may be better imagined than described. When Colton made report in their hands, and they knew it that was verified they were put together and $500,000 in cash, or $250,000 each, counsel, and it was even said Lent was quite cheerful.

THE LOCATION OF THE FIELD.

The diamond field is located near Vermillion creek, forty-five miles from Black Butte station, directly on one of the prominent geodetic stations of the geological survey. It is at the forth base of a pine clad range that runs east and west, noing to Brown's Hole, and is in Colorado Territory, eight miles south of the Wyoming line. At this point is a *mesa*, about 7,500 feet high, gently sloping to the north, and covered by cactus, five or six varieties, and coarse, which carry off the drainage of the pine ridge into Vermilion creek. This *mesa* has a comparatively smooth surface, which is broken by two masses of sandstone, which rise above its level. Some of the valleys near this spot are charming in appearance and abound in the finest of game, such as deer, elk, grizzlies, etc. Through the ellipse, save in sheltered spots, is not one of the finest in the world. The summers are cool and the winters very cold, and hurricanes sweep over it for months each two thirds of the year. The diamond field is not located in an Indian country, though the straggling Utes occasionally pass over and near it. These Indians are nominally at peace, and would not trouble white men unless a good opportunity offered.

THE New York *Evening Post* states, and claims on good authority, that the friends of Mayor Hall and some Republicans, who did not enter heartily into the late campaign in favor of reform in the city government and the election of Mayor Havemeyer, have about perfected a plan by which they hope to neutralize the triumph of the reformers. The plan is for the present objectionable city officers to resign, and Mayor Hall to fill the vacancies with Republicans appointed by the Governor. "Hugh," who has many influence at Albany to prevent hostile legislation, so that the officers may be beyond the control of Mayor Havemeyer. The scheme also contemplates, the *Post* adds, the defeat of all reform legislation at Albany, including the new charters.

A committee of leading citizens has been formed at Utica, N. Y., to organize a joint stock company for the erection of new rolling mills in that city. The capital stock is to be placed at $500,000. It is estimated that the buildings and machinery will necessitate an expense of $350,000, leaving a working capital of $150,000.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Senate Committees Rearranged.

Liberals and Democrats Yoked.

The Abolition of Revenue Assessors

River and Harbor Appropriations.

Ex-Speaker Orr, of South Carolina,

Appointed Minister to Russia.

One of Greeley's Last Letters.

Sloops of War Bill Passed.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Homesteads.

Louisville and Portland Canal.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 5, 1872.

The Senate Committees.

The Senate Caucus Committee is ready to report, and has changed the list considerably since last night. But one vacancy for the minority was left on several important committees instead of two, as had been proposed. The chairmen determined upon are: Judiciary, Edmunds; Finance, Sherman; Elections, Morton; Foreign Relations, Cameron Military, Wilson; District of Columbia, Patterson; Public Buildings and Grounds, Morrill, Maine; Patents, Ferry; Commerce, Chandler; Claims, Howe; Indian Affairs, Harlan; Pensions, Pratt. Contingent Expenses, Carpenter; Public Lands, Pomeroy; Pacific Railroads, Stewart; Disabilities, Boreman; Mines and Mining, Hamlin; Revision of Laws, Conkling; Territories, Nye; Enrolled Bills, Windom; Levees, Mississippi, Kellogg; Naval Affairs, Cragin. Senator Logan is placed second on the Military Committee, with a view to his being chairman when Wilson resigns. No other changes have been given the Democrats, instead of one, which gives them the usual two committee rooms. The one they had was Private Land Claims, the one given them besides is Engrossed Bills. At the Democratic caucus Thurman was selected chairman of the first and Casserly of the second. This caucus was in session four hours, Vickers presiding. A communication was sent to the Liberal Republicans, inviting them to fill the vacancies. Republicans had left, and of the fact that Liberals and Democrats had been placed on the same footing, and asking if they (the Liberals) wished to be so considered. Sumner replied that he intended to decline all committee service. Rice said he should act with the Democrats henceforth. Tipton was understood to accept the situation. Schurz did not wish to be considered in the matter. He was informed that the caucus, under the circumstances, wished him to remain on the Foreign Relations Committee, and the minority would be satisfied to leave their interests there in his hands, as its views on the foreign policy were understood to coincide with their own. Casserly would withdraw to take the chairmanship of the new committee given the Democrats. Trumbull is not in the city. Fenton will be relieved from the Finance Committee and Bayard left there. Thurman will act on the Judiciary. Trumbull will go to the foot of Privileges and Elections. Tipton will remain on Public Lands, but goes to the foot. He will also be on the Committee on Disabilities.

One of Greeley's Last Letters.

One of Horace Greeley's last letters was to Alexander McClure, bearing date the last day Mr. Greeley was at his editorial office. It was written in reply to one expressing sympathy with Mr. Greeley for the loss of his wife and the political misfortune that so suddenly followed:

NEW YORK, November 10.—*My Dear Friend:* I am a man of many sorrows, and doubtless have deserved them. But I beg to say that I do not forget the gallant though luckless struggle you made in my behalf. I am not well. Yours, HORACE GREELEY.

To Col. A. K. McClure.

Sumner's Last War Bill,

as finally passed by the House this afternoon, authorizes the construction of six steam vessels, of iron or wood, as the Secretary of the Navy may decide—one-half to be built in private yards, but no contracts or order for construction to be made until full detailed estimates have been submitted to Congress and the requisite appropriations made. Randall's amendment, requiring the vessels to be built according to plans and models approved by a board of naval officers, and Banks's allowing them to carry less than ten heavy guns each, are both added to the bill, and the appropriation of three million dollars, at first reported from the committee, is stricken out. The most significant division of the House during the progress of the bill was upon Cox's amendment reducing the number of vessels from ten to six, all the Democrats and a considerable number of Republicans voting in its favor. All of the sixty-seven votes against cutting down the number, with the exception of the Maryland members, were Republicans. It is expected the bill will be taken up at once in the Senate, and also that it will be restored to its original proportions, which are understood to express the views of the Secretary of the Navy. The intention of the friends of the bill is to secure ultimately authority for building the ten steam vessels, one-half in private yards, and that the work may go forward without previous appropriations. Otherwise delay will probably carry any practical results from the bill over until a year from next summer.

The Soldiers's and Sailors' Homestead Bill

reported by Gen. Coburn from the Military Committee, differs from the present law in allowing all entitled to enter under it to assign their certificate of entry within twelve months to any citizen over 21 years of age who has not already made entry, but two years' actual residence is necessary by either the soldier or the assignee.

The Louisville and Portland Canal.

The Committee on Commerce to-day briefly considered the subject of purchasing the Louisville and Portland Canal. It was agreed to have the matter presented separately, and General Negley, who brought up the subject, was appointed chairman of the sub-committee to prepare at once a report upon the question, with a view to early action in the House. The measure meets with great favor in the committee. In transmitting Gen. Weitzel's report to Congress the Secretary of War presents a full review and history of the case, but makes no recommendation. This, with General Weitzel's report, and much additional information from General Humphreys, will be in print in the hands of the committee to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, D. C. December 5, 1872.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President to-day sent a large number of nominations for various civil and military offices appointed during the recess, of which the following are the most important: S. F. Phillips, Solicitor General, vice Bristow; G. W. Fairman, Postmaster at Philadelphia, vice Bingham; Lucien Hawley, Supervisor of Internal Revenue, New York; Brigadier Irwin McDowell to be Major General; A. Knowles, Justice Supreme Court of Montana territory; United States District Attorneys—N. Tausier for Western District, Indiana; Wm. Patrick, Eastern District, Missouri; Wm. Pound, Dakota Territory; United States Marshal—J. H. Burdick, Dakota Territory.

REVISED SENATE COMMITTEES.

The Liberal Republicans are caucussing to determine what course to pursue in regard to the minority representation on Senate committees. The Democratic Senators are also caucussing. The majority leave only one vacancy, and the Foreign Relations Committee. The Democratic and Liberal Republican Senators have agreed among themselves to name Schurz as the minority representative on the Foreign Relations Committee, Thurman on the Judiciary, and Bayard on the Finance—Casserly, Trumbull and Fenton retiring from these committees respectively, as the majority leave only one vacancy on each of them to be filled, as heretofore, by the Opposition. The Republican caucus will meet to-morrow and ratify the report of its own committee, together with those of the minority selections, and the list will then be submitted to open Senate for adoption. Mr. Edmunds will become chairman of the Judiciary Committee, vice Trumbull; Hamlin chairman of the Mining Committee, vice Rice; and Carpenter chairman of the Committee on Contingent Expenses, vice Fenton. Casserly goes off the Foreign Relations voluntarily, in order to allow Schurz to remain on the committee. Fenton, who goes off the Finance, is nominated by the opposition for a place on the Committee on Territories, and Trumbull, who is deposed by the majority from the chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee, is named by the opposition to represent them on the Privileges and Elections Committee, vice Thurman, who goes off that committee but remains on the Judiciary. Casserly is to be made a member of the Committee on Pacific Railroads.

POLITICAL FEELING IN ALABAMA—THE ADMINISTRATION WILL NOT INTERFERE.

Committees representing both branches of the Alabama Legislature are here. That representing Governor Lewis and the Court House body recently asked an interview with the President, and were answered that he preferred they should first confer with the Attorney General. They consequently will confer with Judge Williams to-morrow. The committee representing the Capitol branch will probably see the President to-day or to-morrow. While the Attorney General will give full attention to every matter presented by those committees, it is not regarded as unlikely that unless he and other action thereon, and the fixed determination of the government is not to interfere in the condition of affairs in that State, unless the peace of the country should arise under the Constitution of the United States which shall render such interference necessary.

THE FUNDING LOANS.

Secretary Boutwell appeared before the Committee of Ways and Means to-day and informed them that unless the House took action in expressing disapproval of his funding operations under the late syndicate, he would proceed in a short manner to negotiate the remainder of the loans.

THE ELECTORAL VOTE TO-DAY.

Barney Wood, murderer of Cheeseman, will be executed to-morrow. The prisoner is in a condition of complete collapse, and it is feared he will have to be carried on a chair to the scaffold.

ELECTORAL COLLEGES.

Greeley Electors of Arkansas Vote for Brown and Banks.

LITTLE ROCK, December 5.—The Greeley electors of this State assembled last night, and, claiming to be elected, cast the vote of the State for B. Gratz Brown, for President, and General N. P. Banks, of Massachusetts, for Vice President. They made this after being officially informed by the Governor that, on a canvass of the votes the Grant electors were elected. They charge the latter result was fraud through fraud. They passed appropriate resolutions on the death of Mr. Greeley, and call upon the State men to the election of their ticket, and pledge endeavor to instal themselves in office.

Vote of Missouri Electors.

ST LOUIS, December 5.—The Republican from Missouri City last night, stating that the Presidential electors adjourned without voting, is a mistake. The ballot having been taken at a late hour with the following result: For President, U. S. Grant, 10; Horace Greeley, 3. For Vice President, Henry Wilson, 10; Thomas A. Hendricks, 6; David Davis, 1. For Vice President, Gratz Brown they have gone to Jefferson City. John M. Palmer, 3; William S. Grosbeck, 1; B. F. Lewis was elected messenger to carry the vote to Washington.

Kansas.

TOPEKA, KS., December 5.—The Kansas Presidential electors met yesterday and cast their votes for Grant and Wilson. John Guthrie, of Topeka, was chosen messenger to Washington.

STATE NEWS.

A German, Joseph Herrold by name, hung himself in the jail at Lewistown last Monday. He had been lingering there for several days.

Peter Glennan, of Lewistown, aged twenty one, accidentally shot and killed himself while out hunting on Monday night.

Pet pockets are just now aiding careless Scranton people in getting rid of their cash.

Two gentlemen from Reading killed ten fine deer in Elk county, last week.

Quite a severe snow storm at commenced in the afternoon and during the latter part of last week, the ground being covered to the depth of two feet.

A mammoth well, over one hundred feet in circumference, is being dug near Station No. 4 on the Lake Shore Railroad Company, for the use of the road. A portable steam engine is used in the work, the dirt and water being hoisted by means of a crane. The hole is curbed to prevent caving in.

The small-pox prevails to some extent in Wellsburg during the past few weeks. Several cases.

Miss Matilda Wright, a young lady of nineteen years, daughter of John Wright, of Richhill township, Greene county, was seized with a fit while sitting near an open fire, one day last week, and fell into the fire, her left side being burned to a crisp. She lived but an hour at the time, and when discovered was unconscious. She lingered in terrible agony, and persists in being better feel all the year round that the best and most tempting decoction of chopped hay, boiled with turnips, carrots, and potatoes. The Chicago *Inter Ocean Telegraph* ever suggested (besides plenty of water) for stock feed prior to exhibition at the State Fair. "So you have to water things to make them grow, and a fat hog or steer is a man would have going around a forty acre field with a water can?" He would indeed—we never dented it. The rows of wheat, potatoes corn, peas, beans and cabbage would know no certainty that it was a long time between drinks.

But that is not the way plants imbibe their moisture in Montana. The farmers run a plow furrow from one neighboring brook to the other side and the valley land; from the main furrow or ditch, as the more prefentious ranchmen style them, the pure chappaqua is lead into the field in "living streams." Instead of intervals of twenty feet apart, down some rows. There it is allowed to run until the water has reached the far end of the field, by which time all the plants within ten feet on both sides are soaked to the roots and has percolated from further percolation, as it did when Noah left the ark!—then the farmer stuffs up the hole in the ditch and goes to the next row. This is theoretical irrigation; but, practically speaking, the rancher turns on all the water he can get, and goes to plowing, or building fence, or driving cattle, and may not be back for a week, by which time he may have a duck pond over his entire estate; but it makes no difference, for the evaporating process is so rapid that when he shuts the water off the ground looks in ten hours after like an oven door. But do you suppose he has to repeat the dose immediately. No, sir. The soil is loosened up and getting sun-cured every hour, no longer sometimes, because they burrow deep and work for themselves after that, like artesian wells did in the palmy days of Oil creek.

What the next crop will be "to dig the ditches" it does. Our traveler knew of two men that spent two whole days making a ditch seven miles long (the valley was a very wide and flat one). One of them drove a plow and the other a hoe, and for two dollars per day for labor, that ditch must have cost well nigh two dollars per mile to build. But for the outlay they have a farm of about eighty acres, close by a great mill, that yielded this season over sixty bushels of wheat per acre.

If farmers would club together as these men did, water could be distributed over thousands of square miles of arable land at a very trifling cost. Its the idea for a farm.

"But won't the rich alluvial soil of your valleys wear out eventually, like our black mould in the prairies is now doing?" Eventually, yes; eventually the pyramids will crumble into dust. We have no fear of mould or "alluvial soil" in either Montana or Dakota. That country is the former bed of a sea that was gradually upheaved (see Winchell), and never has been made fertile by the decomposition of forest vegetation. The soil is entirely of mineral origin. Its the ashes of salts, the soil of the great American Alkaline Desert, that has been the scare crow of emigrants for the last fifty years.

If people ever were humbugged the American people have been by the stories of military engineers and travelers, Kit Carson and Buffalo Bill, and others who have crossed the plains. The bones of thousands of horses, oxen (and men too) are this day scattered over the richest bunch grass that can be made the most fertile lands in America. It is only recently that people have discovered that water was the only fertilizer necessary to make the desert smile with verdure, and fortunately for Montana and Dakota they have got plenty of it.

And now that they have learned to take water from streams and springs, we will hear no more of dearth and want.

People are coming down to the practice of the ancients in their modes of agriculture. The Egyptians, the Jews, the Persians, and all the old stock, practiced irrigation, took no agricultural papers, never dreamed of their grandfathers knew anything about the science of rotation and letting the ground rest.

Our traveler says that in his opinion the rains we have in Ohio and Pennsylvania do more harm than good to the soil, by washing away the finest and most soluable portion of the land. Consequently it is so necessary here to replenish with manures and fertilizers, and let the ground rest under a grass crop to give it time for further decomposition of its particles. Irrigation on the other hand robs the soil of nothing, but really dissolves much more plant food annually than Mississippi floods. He believes the far Northwest regions, when they are opened up by railroads, as is now being rapidly done by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, is destined to astonish the world with its salina, mineral and vegetable productions.

ALTHOUGH the Parisian surgeons are unsurpassed as operators, the percentage of recoveries after operations is less in Paris than in other cities where similar medical skill is available, and this has been attributed not only to defective ventilation but to certain atmospheric peculiarities. In consideration of this, a Parisian physician has recently established in a charming situation near the Bois de Boogne, an establishment where patients compelled to undergo very critical operations can be accommodated. This seems a happy combination of *rus in urbe* for medical purposes, and is worthy of wide imitation.

THE FAR NORTHWEST.

A gentleman just returning from a visit to Dakota and Montana, desires through the public press to answer some questions that every one is poking at him. He says he is tired of telling individuals his wonderful yarns, and wants something in print that he can let his friends read at their leisure.

Inquisitive people are generally incredulous and seldom satisfied, so that we presume our traveled friend will suffer more after publication than he did before. The first question generally propounded is: "Is it true that way up north, near the British line, in Dakota, Montana and Washington Territories in latitude 47 degrees and 48 degrees north, the winters are no more protracted and severe than they are in Pennsylvania and New York?" To this he says he never saw so much frost work on store windows as they have just now in Pittsburgh, and the idea of people in brick houses shivering around stoves and fire places in November, asking if it is possibly true that the climate is really so Italian-like as this of Pennsylvania is somewhat amusing. Next he says people inquire about the Isothermal lines, whether he ever saw any of them; and why it is, if they are such good things, they have never been introduced here. Our traveler says he has almost exhausted himself on the subject of isothermal lines. Not being much on either Greek or Latin, he ventures the opinion, however, that "*iso*" mean a "like same," or, as John Chinaman says, "all same," and that "*thermal*" stands in some way for temperature. So that an isothermal line is a line of equal temperature. That is to say, the annual average temperature of any place being known all other points, east or west, north or south, with a similar average are on the same isothermal line. These lines, as is well known, do not exactly follow or coincide with parallels of latitude, but for certain causes unknown deflect northward and southward of the parallels. Thus Philadelphia is on the same parallel of latitude as Madrid, Spain. But in

The Daily Commercial.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1872.

In yesterday's issue we noticed the reduction in iron of twelve dollars per ton, as agreed upon by the Western Iron Association. The new card rates are given elsewhere to-day, being a reduction of fifty cents per keg on nails, and six-tenths of a reduction in all kinds of iron.

HON. ULYSSES MERCUR entered upon the discharge of his official duties as Judge of the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth, last Monday. Governor GEARY has issued writs to the sheriffs of the several counties composing the Thirteenth Congressional district, fixing Tuesday, the 24th instant, as the day for the special election of a member of Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge MERCUR.

AMONG the nominations sent to the Senate yesterday by the President, were the names of GEORGE FAIRMAN, Postmaster of Philadelphia, and LUCIEN HAWLEY, Supervisor of Internal Revenue, New York. These officials, it will be remembered, were recently promoted by the President under the operation of the new civil service rules. It has been freely stated that Congress would make a dead set against the reform. So far as the Senate is concerned we shall soon see; since the whole question is involved in the confirmation or rejection of the nominees by that body. Let us see whether, the Executive having promoted these efficient deputies to the office of principals, the Senate will have the hardihood to declare that the offices of the nation are merely a set of spoils, the only road to whose possession is through partisan influence and political servility.

WHILE the complimentary vote cast for HENDRICKS, for President, by the Electoral Colleges of Maryland and Tennessee, and by a portion of the electors of Georgia for one of the citizens of that State, can have no practical effect whatever, it is likely that the matter will give an additional impetus to the movement for the abolition of the Electoral College and the substitution therefor of a direct vote of the people. If Mr. GREELEY had been living, the electoral vote of the conservative States would of course have been cast solid for him. Still, since even in that event he could not have assumed the duties of the Presidential office, it would seem to follow that the vote of minority Presidential electors is simply the record of a historical fact. If this be so, the fact of his death was hardly sufficient reason for depriving his memory of whatever distinction inhered in the popular suffrages of the half-a-dozen States which he carried.

AS WAS naturally to have been expected, Senator SUMNER'S resolution to strike out all records of battles of the civil war from the United States flags and the army register, has created a widespread feeling of surprise and regret. The general expression with regard to it is that it is a little cheap exhibition of sentimental buncombe that is simply absurd. The best class of Southerners themselves do not feel aggrieved at the recital of the victories won by our troops; on the contrary, those who fought us the hardest and most persistently are the proudest of the heroism and endurance shown on both sides. To make his resolution complete, Senator SUMNER should have urged the demolition of our soldiers' monuments now gracing so many of our towns and villages; the changing of the names of our battle fields; the erasure of the records of the rebellion from history, and the blotting out of its memories from the human mind. Let him try the effect of a resolution to tear down Bunker Hill Monument and sell its sacred stones for building materials.

ONE of the leading monthlies of the country calls upon Congress for the passage of laws to protect the people and the public interests from "the rascals of Wall street." If the bold, unscrupulous men who concoct and engineer such gigantic speculations as that of the late Northwestern "corner," could be brought to book and punished for the suffering and distress they create, it would be occasion for general rejoicing. The matter, however, is hardly one for statutory enactment. It is doubtful whether there was ever a law framed which a Wall street sharper could not evade. It is not so much a question of finance, or business, or political economy, as it is of morality. People have gone on encouraging the spirit of "speculation" until almost every department of trade is more or less infected with the evil. There is but one practical remedy for the evil, and that is, public opinon. But if public opinion, animated with honor and justice, were to discountenance and frown down the entire practice of "cornering," and other similar devices for obtaining money without earning it, it would not be a very great while before the whole abominable system of financial brigandage would come toppling to the ground.

THE recurring question of the responsibility or irresponsibility of railroad companies, is at length in a fair way of finding definite solution. It has already been settled that passengers have some rights which these corporations are bound to respect; and the question is now shorily to be decided whether a railroad company, once incorporated, is to be forever after independent of legislative control, except in relation to such powers as may have been expressly reserved by the Legislature in granting the charter. A leading Illinois railroad company, in resisting a suit for the forfeiture of its charter for violating an act of the Legislature prohibiting discriminating rates in the matter of local freight, took the ground that the charter was a contract between the State and the company, under which contract the company was authorized to prescribe its own rates, which the State could not by subsequent legislation undertake to do, since it conflicted with the provision of the Constitution of the United States prohibiting the States from passing laws impairing the obligation of contracts. The judge, however, held the law to be constitutional, and the company have appealed the case to the Supreme Court of the United States. The principle involved is one of great public importance.

THE Pittsburgh *Post* works itself into a terrible rage over the recommendations of the Postmaster General with regard to the government postal telegraph scheme. There is, of course, much to be said on both sides of the subject; but it is not at all likely that Congress will exercise a particle of authority over the matter which any reasonable person can object to. It is claimed that the system would greatly cheapen and multiply the transmissions of telegrams, making accessible to nearly all a convenience now limited to comparatively few. The whole matter is simply one of business. If it can be shown that the government can carry on the business cheaper and better than private corporations, it ought to be assumed; otherwise not. It is a question to be examined and determined by the aid of facts and figures; not of partisan theories and the hurling of political epithets like those employed by the *Post*. The talk of that paper about government espionage, and centralization of federal power, is the sheerest nonsense. The same tone was held by journals of the *Post's* political persuasion during the war; the government being declared guilty of the most daring and flagrant usurpation when it coerced the seceding States to submit to the national authority. The measure will not, of course, be passed, if it is passed at all, until it has undergone thorough and exhaustive discussion. But the *Post's* utter lack of confidence in the people is perfectly amazing—considering its recent experience concerning the soundness of their patriotism and judgment.

THERE is no doubt of the fact that among the various causes which have operated to produce the present lamentable frequency with which murderers are acquitted, is the abuse of the plea of insanity. Experience shows that in a majority of cases it is only necessary to create in the minds of the jury a doubt of the sanity of the prisoner, and he is as safe as innocence itself could make him. It seems to be somewhat different in France. A few weeks ago a young man in Paris, actuated by jealousy, killed his brother and at once surrendered himself to justice. The defence urged in his case was that of hereditary insanity, but the Court declined to admit it as a valid excuse for the crime, and condemned the prisoner to servitude for life. The case was then appealed to the Court of Cassation in Paris, which confirmed the sentence of the Court below. A few instances of this kind of law in our Courts would probably prove an excellent remedy for the immunity which murderers and other criminals now so often enjoy. It seems monstrous that if a jury can be made to believe a murderer, in addition to his detestable morals, is also the possessor of a little intellectual disorder, he should be again let loose upon society, or restrained only until his temporary "insanity" has disappeared. It would be a great reform if juries were required, in all cases where insanity of any degree is set up by the defense to pronounce, in their verdict, as well upon the sanity or insanity as upon the guilt or innocence of the accused. There is now, we believe, a bill pending before the Indiana Legislature, which provides that in all trials for murder or manslaughter, whenever the plea of insanity or overmastering emotion is set up—in case the accused is acquitted of the crime charged, the jury shall state in their verdict whether the insanity plea influenced their decision—if it did, the prisoner to be immediately sentenced to an insane asylum for life, if the crime charged was murder; or for a term of, years, if manslaughter. Such a law would unquestionably go far toward preventing the frequency of this plea, which is now resorted to by pretty nearly every murderer in the country.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

No passage in President GRANT'S admirably quiet, dignified and common sense message has been read by the people with deeper interest or with greater gratification, than the paragraph relating to the civil service. For many years the conviction has existed, and has been steadily growing in strength in the popular mind, that our civil service urgently needs reform. Professional politicians of the lower grades are nearly the only persons in any intelligent community in the country who do not recognize the fact. Men of this class, whether they have already attained office as the reward of political services, without possessing the necessary qualifications for the performance of its duties, or merely cherish the hope of attaining such temporal blessedness, are naturally hostile to a reform which casts disparagement upon their successes in the past and blights their prospect of success in the future. But the opposition of these men, instead of permanently preventing reform, is really hastening its accomplishment; in other words, it is only rendering the reform more effectual and complete. By arresting or at least aiting to arrest precipitate action, they are enabling and compelling the people to look with closer attention upon the abuses which are the subject of complaint, and to form clearly defined views concerning the practical ends at which they are to aim. One of the chief causes which render a change in the constitution of the civil service indispensible is the transformation imposed upon the service itself by the rapid development of the country, in connection with the great events which have revolutionized American society in fully one-third of the territory over which it extends. With the lapse of every day the necessity thus unfolded becomes more obvious and pressing, and in the presence of the arguments which it presents, the opposition of politicians must seem ever more unworthy of respectful consideration.

Indeed, the American method of filling appointments in most departments of the civil service, as heretofore practised, is so manifestly transitional, it is so clearly stamped with the character of makeshift or temporary expedient that the time is not far away when no man of good common sense and some knowledge of life will be found to listen to any argumentation on the subject. At present a good many plain mechanics and plain business men, absorbed in their own pursuits and accustomed to think humbly of their own judgment concerning the high affairs of State, are apt to be easily silenced, when, attempting to say a word in favor of the reform in question, they happen to be encountered by one of those voluble and shifty gentlemen whose leisure from official duties has enabled him to master certain Congressional speeches designed to prove that the best workman is the man who has never learned his trade. Then, no doubt, there are a good many persons in every community accessible to what may be called the sympathetic argument. "A fellow feeling makes them wondrous kind." Uncertain of their own future, well aware of their own intellectual and perhaps moral deficiencies, and anticipating the possibility or even the probability that a position in the service of the State may some time seem desirable for themselves or for their relatives, they are easily impressed in favor of a system which holds out the prospect of remunerative employment to all who can command a certain measure of influence. In other countries most respectable and even high born persons have upheld and still uphold splendid public institutions on such grounds. One establishment of this kind in England was once wittily described by Mr. BRIGHT as being chiefly adapted to afford out-door relief to members of the aristocracy. In the United States, with the extension of education and the growth of intelligence the people are fast learning to think about and to look into public affairs in a way which cannot fail soon to produce some effects surprising to those who have neglected to note the change in the popular temper.

It would be mere folly and injustice to pass sentence of general condemnation upon the subordinate officeholders of the past and the present. Very many of them have deserved more than they have ever received, and, upon the whole, it is rather remarkable that more and greater abuses than discredit the American system have not flourished under its operation. It is the system that is in fault, and it is the system which is as certainly destined to undergo a general reform, as it is certain that no able man would act upon its methods in managing his own private affairs. No capitalist would risk his money in or have anything to do with a business concern, however simple its relations, if the manager were bound to employ his assistants upon the recommendation of irresponsible parties, or without reference to their well ascertained natural and acquired fitness for the duties required of them, or if he were required to dismiss them and substitute others for them, on the occurrence of a contingency which did not affect either their characters or qualifications. Yet this is only a part of the practical absurdity which has extensively prevailed in the American civil service. It was always mischievous upon the whole, and must of course become increasingly injurious with the enhanced complications and difficulties resulting from the advancement of the country in civilization and wealth. Upon the sound sense of the nation no impression adverse to the proposed reform is made by ridicule of or objections to the civil service rules. The people have no prejudices or partialities to gratify in the matter. If the rules are in any way objectionable, let them be amended. All that is required as such a system as shall secure a civil service free from the abuses and objections which are perfectly well known, and which must before very long be removed in one way or in another.

FEMININE DISCIPLES OF ESCULAPIUS.

A lively controversy has been going on in Edinburgh for a year or more *anent* the right of a woman after undergoing the required examination to receive the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University. A single young lady of peculiar obstinacy or persistence is thus fighting the battle of her sex, and as her opponents are not only Scotchmen, but Scotch doctors, a female victory in the case may be safely set down and certainly will be regarded as one of the most remarkable feminine triumphs in history. Besides appealing to the statutes of the University as by implication if not in express terms prohibiting the granting of a medical degree to a woman, the professor who has been most conspicuous and zealous in the combat, is understood to allege various moral, physiological and religious arguments against the propriety of the act. We do not know whether or not he has made any argumentative use of the experience of the sister University of Zurich. That famous Swiss medical school, as the reader may remember, several years ago won great applause among advanced feminine thinkers by opening its lecture rooms to the women of all nationalities, who desired to qualify themselves for the profession. It is said, we know not how truly, that the "simple Swiss" doctors regarded the act rather as a jest than as a step involving serious consequences. If this was the case, and if a late German correspondent tells the truth, the jest has turned out a sorry one. According to this correspondent "emancipated" young ladies from America, the different countries of Western Europe, and especially from Russia, have congregated in the Zurich Medical school in such multitude that they now number more than a hundred, that is nearly one-third of the entire body of medical students attending the University. The correspondent says: "One must have seen them, these individuals, not of the masculine nor of the feminine, but of the neuter gender, with their sailors' caps, often untidy dress, closely cut hair, and cigars hardly ever out of their mouths, in order to be filled with fitting detestation for this social experiment."

This is certainly rather unpromising, and even people who have no fancy for female physicians, would fain trust that the drawing is exaggerated. Possibly the writer is a horrid young masculine disciple of Esculapius, a second "Bob Sawyer," who has lost a prize through the superior industry and ability of one of the "heuteres." At any rate there is some somfort as well as some illumination in the fact which the writer himself reports, namely, that eighty of these women are Russians.

The Supreme Court of Missouri recently decided that the parties to a suit for divorce are competent witnesses in their own behalf. This decision has been handsomely improved, and, on the 27th ult., twenty-nine divorces were granted by the courts of St. Louis, most of the plaintiffs being women whose husbands were drunkards and had deserted them. Chicago will have to look to her laurels, or St. Louis will get ahead of her in this branch of industry.

The city of New York pays to its judges, in salaries, the annual sum of $537,500, while the government of the United States pays to the entire judicial force of the nation, including the Supreme Court, circuit judges, District of Columbia judges, clerks, bailiffs and messengers throughout the Union only $349,840 annually. The judicial force of the municipality of Manhattan, therefore, costs $187,660 more than the whole judicial force of the United States costs the nation.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

New Orleans continues to push ahead. It is to have another line of steamers to Liverpool and London, consisting of five large steamships, and the city is now making a strong bid for the Western grain trade, of which it will doubtless secure a large share. It is intended to ask the government, this winter, for an appropriation sufficient to clear away the bars at the mouth of the river, which has long been a serious annoyance to the commerce of the port.

A new geyser region has been discovered in Idaho Territory. Some of the geysers are very remarkable, one of them sending up water from one orifice and steam from the other. The whole bank of the river, for a distance of nearly two miles, is lined with springs and geysers, flowing into its current, and raising the temperature of the water many degrees.

The London *Times*, in view of the great increase of drinking in England, exclaims: "Among all the writers, all the talkers, all the preachers, all the workers, all the names we see daily blazoned on the roll of English fame, are there none that will set about to abate this nuisance and scandal—our national drunkenness?"

A warning to be heeded by literary men against over-work is afforded in the remarkable statement of Mr. Greeley to Rev Mr. Talmage ten days before his nomination at Cincinnati, "that he had not had a sound sleep in fifteen years."

In central Kentucky there has recently been discovered an immense hole in the earth, circular in form, sixty or seventy feet in diameter, of a funnel shape for twenty-five or thirty feet, when the diameter is diminished to ten or twelve feet. Below this point it has never been explored, and sinks to an unknown depth. On throwing a stone into this hole or sink, its ring as it strikes the sides gradually dies away without being heard to strike any bottom. It is supposed that visitors have already thrown more than one hundred cart loads of rock into it.

The number of grain and molasses distilleries in operation on the 1st of November last was 296, with a capacity of 228,470 gallons daily; the whole number in operation on the 1st instant was 236, with a daily capability of 262,343 gallons—a daily increase in November of 33,873 gallons. This increase is the natural result of the autumn harvests.

Senator Sumner has brought from Europe numerous valuable additions to his autograph treasures, among them the original MSS. of Burns's "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled!"

A cavity in the east side of Stone Mountain, in Georgia, is attracting attention. A midnight passerby has been seeing strange sights; a bright light was seen in the mouth of the cave, and large bowlders of rock danced up and down like India-rubber balls in the hands of an Indian giant. After performing many wonders, and holding a conversation with the author, the Indian is dismissed, rises in mid-air, and disappears.

An agent has gone to the North of Germany in the hope of securing a thousand or more laborers to work in the Lake Superior mines.

An invention to melt snow on railroads has been contrived by a citizen of Bedford county, Virginia. The object is to melt the snow and ice on a railroad track as the train runs. This is to be effected by means of a flame of sufficient intensity to produce the result instantaneously. A very good invention if it will accomplish the purpose.

Well posted judges estimate the tobacco crop of Missouri this year at 80,000 hogsheads. Last year it reached 18,000 hogsheads. This is a wonderful increase. The liberal premiums offered by the Tobacco Association have done much to stimulate planters to increase their acres of tobacco, as well as to induce new men to engage in its production.

The stockholders of the great insurance companies in Hartford are rather discouraged since the Boston fire, and the Hartford papers are discussing the desirableness and discretion of turning some of the capital now invested in insurance into channels which do not involve so much risk.

Six weeks ago a Missouri farmer missed one of his fattening hogs, and a few days since found the hog alive in a pit, or sink hole, in the bottom where he was missed. The pit was six feet deep, there had been no rain during the time of any consequence, and the unfortunate porker was without food or water during the entire time of his captivity. The hog weighed about two hundred and fifty pounds when missed, and when taken out weighed only one hundred.

"Hope tells a flattering, foolish tale." A vessel has been fitted out by parties in San Francisco to go in search of marvelous stores of gold and diamonds, said to have been buried in the Galapagos, in 1526, by some Peruvians. It was at the time of the revolution in Peru, and the gold and diamonds were government property, valued at about $100,000,000, and were buried by the mutinous crew of the vessel in which they were being taken to a place of safety.

One of the most singular incidents of the Boston fire was the fact that three gentlemen (who are brothers-in-law) in business in different parts of each escaped being burnt out by the intervention of a single store, the fire coming within one building of the three establishments. They did not get burned out, but all came within one of it.

Indian troubles have broken out in a most unexpected quarter—Northern California. The Modocs, who are naturally a warlike race, have taken the field, and have massacred many settlers in the sparsely populated region east of Yreka, on the boundary between Oregon and California. No explanation is given of the origin of the difficulty.

There is another chance for the wordmongers to set their mill agoing. The disease has broken out among the oats in Massachusetts. Some wag in word making calls it the "catalepsis cataractes," which is not good even for a first attempt. The symptoms of the malady are swelling of the head, dimness of the sight, and a general paralysis of the body, but there is no hope that it will be generally fatal.

It is announced that the Spanish government has notified its intention of withdrawing the proposed duty on the export of the vine.

The resident physician of the Halifax visiting dispensary writes to the *American Medical Times* that *sarracenia purpurea*, or Indian cup, a native plant of Nova Scotia, is a remedy for small-pox in all its forms in five hours after the first dose has been taken the medicine. However alarming and numerous the eruptions, or confluent and frightful they may be, the peculiar action is such that scarcely a scar is left to tell the story of the disease. If the vaccine or variolous matter is washed with an infusion of sarracenia, they are deprived of their contagious properties. The medicine has been successfully tried in the hospitals of Nova Scotia.

The people of Richmond and along the route of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad are making preparations for a grand celebration at the opening of the new enterprise, which they anticipate, and with sufficient reason, will inaugurate a new era of prosperity in Virginia.

PERSONAL.

A correspondent of the Troy *Press* says that on Christmas night, last year, he was in company with Horace Greeley at Steinway Hall, New York city, where was given Handel's great oration of "The Messiah." During the major part of the performance he sat apparently lost in thought, if not in a doze, and seemingly oblivious to all that was going on. But when Miss Kellogg appeared and sang the great soprano solo, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," he raised up, his face was suffused with joy, his bright eye was dimmed with a tear, and he listened with that steady and intense earnestness so peculiar to him when interested. When it was applauded no hands more loudly applauded than his, no face beamed forth such great satisfaction, and he murmured to himself the grand old hallelujah of the world, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Then came again the absent, preoccupied look, nor did it change until Miss Kellogg sang the masterly recitative, "Then shall come to pass that which is written; death is swallowed up in victory," and when the same joyous look of satisfaction lighted up his face.

Mrs. Lugner, wife of a Westchester county, N. Y., minister, is the only surviving relative of John Howard Payne, "the author of "Home, Sweet Home."

Hon. John R. Briggs, the husband of "Olivia," of the Philadelphia *Press*, died on Tuesday evening at his residence, at Washington, after a protracted illness, of consumption. At the time of his death, and for the last ten years, he was stationary clerk of the House of Representatives. He was an old editor, having commenced his career on the North Adams, Mass., *Transcript*, with the Hon. Henry L. Dawes, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. At a comparatively early age Mr. Briggs emigrated to the West, where he was the editor of several leading journals, among others the *Gate City*, of Keokuk, Iowa.

Alexander H. Stephens can walk only with the aid of crutches and a servant, and does not leave his house except on pleasant days. Being urged as a candidate for United States Senator from Georgia, he writes as follows upon the subject: "We have only to say that, Mr. Stephens states nothing, politically, so far as he is individually concerned, but to serve his country, and to the utmost of his ability, physically and mentally, to contribute all in his power to aid in the preservation and perpetuation of the free institutions of our ancestors, in whatever sphere or position those abilities may be brought lawfully into exercise. He has no personal views, wishes, objects, aims, or aspirations whatever to gratify."

Mr. Ezra Cornell, the founder of the University which bears his name, proposes to cause to be printed in a memorial volume copies of all the newspapers which can be obtained giving accounts of the death and burial of Horace Greeley, or articles on the life and labors. This volume is to be placed in the library of Cornell University. It will have an interest and value which can hardly be overestimated. That it may be as complete as possible, all editors are earnestly requested to send copies of their publications, containing items relative to Mr. Greeley's life and death, to Mr. Cornell, at Ithaca, New York.

A Meriden, Conn., dentist announces that "in full belief that our Lord Jesus Christ will come to earth again next year, I have disposed of my dental office to enter the field again actively in an effort to proclaim the prophetic evidences of this sublime and joyful event." Whereat a Waterbury paper rather frigidly remarks, the doctor emmarked once before in this "prophetic business" in that city and made a utter failure of it, selling out his business and leaving his wife and children in destitute circumstances in order to preach to the world the "coming of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Avan Crocker, the Massachusetts Congressman, aged seventy, has just taken a young wife; and rumor says Congressmen Tyner of Indiana, and McNeeley, of Illinois, are each about to be married.

Harriet Beecher Stowe has sent $100 for the Boston firemen's fund, saying, "I could send it over a hundred times that sum, and then it would be inadequate to express my honor and reverence for those brave, devoted men who risk their lives for the rich, and, alas! too often by the sacrifice of their own lives."

Miss Maria Huntingdon, a Georgia girl of seventeen, who is stopping at the Broadway Hotel, in New York, was engaged to be married to a clothier named Conklin. A few days ago she quarreled with him, and immediately went to an Episcopal minister and got married to another gentleman named Walker. By the time husband and wife reached home she changed her mind again, and kissed him once, and told him never to see her more. Then she applied for a divorce, and is to be married to Conklin as soon as she is free.

About sixty years ago, John Griswold Rogers, of East Lyme, Conn., fell in love with Eliza D. Griswold, and in 1812 the couple were betrothed, and doubtless began to talk about fixing the wedding day. There appears, however, to have been more than the usual difficulty in reaching the question; at least, it was not until last Thanksgiving day that the ceremony took place, when the bride and groom had reached the ages respectively of seventy-eight and seventy-nine. Both parties, however, belong to a long-lived race, and look forward to a wedded life of no short duration.

Once upon a time the De Courcy was one of the boldest and most powerful families of France. The motto of their coat-of-arms was: "I am no king; I disdain being a duke; I am De Courcy." The last descendant died a few days ago; he was a municipal street-sweeper. Among his rags were found his certificate of birth, proving him to have been Robert De Courcy.

Governor-elect Hendricks, of Indiana, is now dignified by the added title of "the not result of the tidal wave."

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

PLOWING BY STEAM.

We find the following description of a new invention, of great interest to farmers, in a letter to the Boston *Advertiser* of the 24 inst. The experiments were made on the farm of Mr. David Landreth, the well known seedsman, near Bristol, Pa.:

Every toil-worn inventer knows how hard it is to find a good chance to try his machine, especially if a large one and one which requires the co-operation of other men. Mr. Williamson, the American patentee of the Thompson traction engine, learned this to his cost, and tried long and fruitlessly to find a place to experiment in steam ploughing, until he met with Mr. Landreth, who was not only ready to believe in and help forward a good invention, but could open fields for steam culture that would fully test the power and value of any machine. I will not consume space describing the machine itself, for that I refer to the patentee, D. D. Williamson, 32 Broadway, New York. The peculiarity of the engine is that it has a wide band of India rubber six inches thick for the tire of its wheels—one engine has the rubber in a continuous ring, the other in sections; the rubber is faced with a kind of clean ash mortar which keeps it from contact with and wear on the earth, but the India rubber spreads under the weight of the engine, and the face or rim of the wheel seems to open out like the paw of the cat or a foot of an elephant, and although the machine weighs seven tons, its two wheels do not press sod ground more than an inch deep, marking its passage over fallow ground by a path fourteen inches wide and an inch and a half deep. There is a third wheel like a bicolipede which turns the engine, and it can turn round and round in its own length, making a perfect circle not more than fifteen feet in diameter. Two wagons were attached to the engine, and, loaded with thirty people, started on a tour round Mr. Landreth's farm, sometimes on the road, sometimes in fields, turning the sharpest corners with ease. We were shown fields of ten and twenty acres ploughed with the engine, at a cost of $1 per acre, and ten acres a day. After we returned to the house a gang plough was attached to the engine, and we started for an old grass field covered with a strong sod. The plough had six mould boards, or, as it were, six separate ploughs in one; the machine started at once, and drew the ploughs up and down the field over some steep grades turning a furrow bed, seven feet wide, fourteen inch furrows, seven inches deep, and moved as fast as a man could walk. It turned on the headlands in thirty seconds, and whether going up or down hill it could be controlled, regulated, slowed or hastened at will. One of these plows, sold to a Western railroad, was put for a first trial into a Minnesota prairie with an extremely hard, rooty sod, and was driven as its first test, without stopping, one mile in a straight line, curling over unbroken furrows thirty and forty feet long. The furrows, as they follow the plow, break like the foam crests of waves on the coast.

Thus you see the point I made at the beginning of my story is illustrated at the end, that acres can be plowed a day at a dollar an acre. I have said nothing of the value of the machine for general traction; the same engine can haul a string of wagons to a gravel bank, load them with a steam shovel, take them out to be dumped, plow, mow and reap, thrash, drive pulp, in short, do all miscellaneous work, and I hope will soon be so improved as to do general housework.

PLANTING OLD GRAPE VINES.

The labor and time spent in transplanting old grape vines will, in nine cases out of ten, be thrown away. A bearing vine, more than four years old, seldom if ever does well, no matter how much care there is taken in digging up and replanting this class of vines. A strong one-year-old vine, of the same variety, set out at the same time, will in four years be stronger, covering more surface, and decidedly more productive than the old vine, while the cost of the old vine and the labor of planting will at least be four times as much. Those who have had experience in grape growing will not make the mistake, but farmers and country gentlemen who want to have fruit in a short time take it for granted that a large old vine is better than a small one for their purpose. But one or two trials with old vines would open their eyes and set them thinking on this subject, and they would soon find that no matter how large a grape may be when transplanted, it should be cut back, both top and root, so as to virtually make a one-year-old of it.

All, or nearly so, of the feeding roots were left in the ground where it grew, and the result will be, under the best care, a feeble growth of wood that the following winter is likely to kill, and even if the wood stand the winter, the disease to which the vines are subject will be more fatal to the old than to the strong vine during the succeeding summer. Thousands of these old worthless vines are sold annually to the inexperienced. One need only walk through the Washington market in this city in the spring or fall to convince themselves of this fact. There, among the tree and vine dealers, he will see stacks of these old vines offered for sale at high prices, and, as one of the dealers expressed it, "I can sell a hundred of these large old vines at one to two dollars a piece where I can sell 10 of the young vines at twenty-five cents each. This seems to be the case, for the stock of old vines on the man's stand was large, while that of the young one and two-year-old vines was quite small.

Hundreds of instances could be cited to show the folly of spending time and money in transplanting old grape vines. But experience will demonstrate that where one man succeeds in an enterprise of this kind, ninety are sure to fail in the attempt. If one has an old bearing vine of a superior quality of grapes, and the owner contemplates moving to another home, better far to make a "layer" this fall, and get a young vine well rooted a year from now, or cut from the vine some time during this month some of the well ripened wood of this year's growth. Cut this wood into pieces a foot long and tie them in a bundle and "heel them in" until spring, when they may be planted out, and under good treatment in the fall these one year old cuttings will be plenty strong enough to set out in permanent place. This is the more sensible method to get healthy vines that in three years from the time of planting will yield twenty pounds of grapes to the vine.—*Quinn, in New York Tribune.*

RAISING WHEAT—SELECTING SEED.

A manufacturer of flour, and a buyer and grower of wheat for many years at Independence, Mo., contributes his experience to the *Rural World*. He says:

Some of my customers invariably raised good crops, and others, on as good land, as often raised poor ones. This led me to inquire of the successful growers the cause of their success; and from them and experience I have gathered the following facts, which may prove beneficial to others. The best wheat crops on old land are thus raised:

As early in July as possible, before under oat stubble or fallow land, and let it remain till the middle of August or first of September; then plow in with one-horse plows, across the breaking; then thoroughly harrow or brush twice, and if the ground is loose, roll with a heavy roller; and in the spring, when the frost is just out of the ground, roll again. This mode of culture is sometimes followed without success, but the failures, if good seed is used, is attributable to the season, and not the culture. In selecting seed, the greatest care is exercised if any but the best grain is taken. Some think if wheat will germinate at all, it is as good as any.

Wheat, to be perfect, must be stacked shortly after harvest. It then goes through the sweating process in the stack, and the grain absorbs from the straw a large amount of volatile matter that would otherwise pass off, which adds to its weight about three pounds per bushel, and to its flouring about two pounds per bushel. Good, well ripened, dead proof wheat has its full vigor; it will germinate quickly and grow strong, having a large pulp to decompose, which furnished the young plant with vitality, until its roots are sufficiently large to draw its substance from the soil. Hence a good stand of wheat is obtained, and, without accident, a good crop.

Now take a small, shriveled berry, weighing from fifty to fifty-six pounds per bushel—in such a bushel you have almost double as many grains, each small and defective. Sow it, and it barely sprouts before its strength is exhausted, and the young plant, having no root, and the grain being decayed, it must perish or remain a long time before it begins to grow.

For the above reason, sprouted wheat should not be sown, nor wheat that is sun-dried, Chaff-burnt wheat is that which has been threshed out before the sweating process has been performed, and put up in bulk, and in that condition the wheat sweats, heats, and generates a heat that burns and blackens the berry, and if not stopped when begun, will completely ruin it—the heat getting to a degree that will cook an egg in the strong vine during the succeeding summer. Thousands of these old worthless vines are sold annually to the inexperienced. One need only walk through the Washington market in this city in the spring or fall to convince themselves of this fact. There, among the tree and vine dealers, he will see stacks of these old vines offered for sale at high prices, and, as one of the dealers expressed it, "I can sell a hundred of these large old vines at one to two dollars a piece where I can sell 10 of the young vines at twenty-five cents each. This seems to be the case, for the stock of old vines on the man's stand was large, while that of the young one and two-year-old vines was quite small.

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Government Securities,

GOLD, SILVER AND COUPONS,

ON MOST FAVORABLE TERMS.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS.

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☞Orders Executed for the Purchase and Sale of STOCKS, BONDS and GOLD.

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STOCKS, BONDS, MORTGAGES, GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, NEGOTIABLE PAPER, &C., &C.

Collections Made on all Accessible Points.

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PASSAGE TICKETS by the National Line, comprising some of the largest Steamships sailing from or to London, Liverpool, Queenstown, Londonderry and Glasgow.

DRAFTS, payable on demand in any part of England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, and AT LOWEST RATES.

IRA B. M'VAY & CO.,

BANKERS.

WE OFFER FOR SALE FREE FROM ALL TAXES,

$50,000 SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, Turtle Creek Division, at 86 and Accrued Interest.

This Mortgage is a FIRST LIEN on the first twelve miles of the Road, and is a key to the whole Road, has sixteen years to run, is an A-1 sinking security, and pays 7 8 per cent. on the investment.

IRA B. M'VAY & CO.,

BANKERS.

Corner Fourth Avenue and Smithfield Street.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

THURSDAY EVENING, December 5, 1872.

The local money market is exhibiting more cheerful signs, and all parties are looking to the new year with a feeling of assured hopefulness. During the stringency which seems now somewhat relaxing, the banks have been called on to do more than it was possible for them to perform, yet they have extended a willing help to all their old customers, and to such outsiders as they felt able to assist, spreading the salve of greenbacks, very thin in some places, yet giving to all as was their need, and the officers of the various money institutions in this city can conscientiously repeat that self congratulatory remark to Semproonius, for they have deserved success. Rates remain very much as they have been all along; as between the regular depositors and the banks they are from eight to ten per cent. per annum. If a depositor finds his bank charging him much higher rates, he may conclude that they either do not want to retain his business or do not class him A No. 1. When partners are compelled to go into the street and bid for money they must look upon it as when bidding for anything else, it is worth all it will bring, and the buyer of money has the privilege of not making the purchase if the rate don't suit him.

In the stock market there is no excitement. The street and the cliques are never on the same side. One must cut bait for the other to fish with, and as the *short* interest is reported small among the outsiders, owing to their wholesome fear of corners, the inference is that their efforts to cover their contracts has advanced the market to figures acceptable to the cliques as a basis for a "bear" movements. All attempts at reasoning, however, are of little avail in the stock market as the laws of cause and effect are a dead letter as applied to stockholders.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morning.	Evening.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	112¾	112¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	113	113¼
U. S. Bonds of 1864	113¼	113¼
U. S. Bonds of 1865	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. Bonds of 1867	113⅝	113⅝
U. S. Bonds of 1868	114	114⅛
10-40s	110¾	111
New 5s	110¾	111
Gold	112¾	113
Currency 6s	112¾	113¼

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	112¾
United States 6s of 1881	114
United States 5-20s of 1862	113¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	113⅝
United States 5-20s of 1865	113⅝
United States 10-40s	109¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	113⅝
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	113⅝
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	113¼
Current Pacifics	112¾

—Messrs. Jay Cook & Co. announce that the interest due January 1, 1873, on registered bonds of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company will be paid by checks sent to the owners of said bonds. Agents in making sales of registered bonds after December 15 are requested to pay purchasers the interest from date of sale to January 1, as the books of the company will be closed between those dates.

—The *Evangelist* gives the following estimate of the total public indebtedness of the country, exclusive of the national debt, which by the last report was $2,160,568,080, which, added to the table given below, places the whole public indebtedness of the country at $3,029,244,838. This does not include the indebtedness of railroads or other corporations:

	Bonded debt.	All other debts.	Total.
Town and city	$326,600,000	$56,150,000	$382,750,000
County	157,197,872	29,099,150	186,297,022
State	24,197,000	28,119,738	52,316,738
	$507,994,891	$113,378,874	$881,763,077
Territorial Co	758,097	316,490	1,268,487
Territorial city and town	1,659,097	964,187	2,623,194
Total agrte	$753,823,507	$114,883,351	$888,676,758

These figures, which must of course be accepted as approximate, are for the census of 1870.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

December 5, 1872.	10:30 A.M.	11:30 A.M.	12:30 P.M.	1:30 P.M.	3:30 P.M.
Gold	112⅝	113	113⅛	113⅛	113⅛
Canton	104½	.....	105	.....	105
Western Union Tel	77½	77¾	77¾	77¾	77¾
Quicksilver	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾	46¾
Pacific Mail	93¼	93¼	93¼	93¼	94
Adams Express	97	.....	97	.....	.....
Wells, Fargo Express	80	.....	80	.....	.....
American Express	54½	.....	54½	.....	.....
United States Express	84½	.....	84½	.....	.....
New York Central	96½	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Erie	22¾	22¾	22¾	22¾	22¾
Michigan Central	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Michigan Southern	92¾	93¼	94	94	94
Illinois Central	110	110	110	110	110
Cleveland and Pittsb'h	.....	86	86	86	86
Chicago and Northwest	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Do preferred	90½	90½	90½	90½	90½
Rock Island	104½	104½	104½	104½	104½
Ft. Paul	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾
Do preferred	96	96	96	96	96
Wabash	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Do. Preferred	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fort Wayne	93½	93½	93½	93½	93½
Ohio and Mississippi	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union Pacific	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Chicago and Alton	112	112	112	112	112
Do. preferred	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Boston, Hartford & Erie	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Harlem	116½	.....	116½	.....	116½
New Jersey Central	94½	.....	94½	.....	94½

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Penna Central	56½	Lehigh Valley R. R.	59
Phila. and Erie	27¾	North Penna. R. R.	50
Lehigh Navigation	50¾	Northern C. & N. Y. 123	
Cata wissa	29¾	Schuylkill Navigat'n	14
Oil Creek & A. V. R.	35¾	Reading	58½

—William Ward, No. 22 Broad street, New York, quotes stock privileges selling for one per cent. each bottom on thirty days' time, and one and a half to two per cent. bonus (according to the value of the shares) on sixty days, at the following variations from the market price of the securities bellowed:

	Puts.	Calls.
Central and Hud	1 to 1½ below.	1¼ to 1¾ above.
Erie Railway	1 to 1½ below.	1¾ to 2 above.
Lake Shore	1 to 1½ below.	1¾ to 1¾ above.
Ohio and Miss	1½ to 2 below.	1¾ to 2 above.
Pacific Mail	⅝ to 1 below.	2 to 3 above.
North western	⅝ to ⅞ below.	2 to 3 above.
Rock Island	1¼ to 1½ below.	2 to 3 above.
St. P., com. & pfd.	⅞ to 1⅛ below.	1⅝ to 2 above.
Union Pacific	1¼ to 1⅝ below.	2 to 2¾ above.
Wabash	⅞ to 1 below.	2 to 3 above.
West Union Tel	¾ to 1 below.	2 to 2½ above.
Han. and St. Jo.,	¾ to 1 below.	2½ to 3 above.
Gold is for 50 to 75	⅛ to 1 below.	1 to 1½ above.

The above rates imply first-class names.

WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

December 4.—The market is unusually quiet. Prices are without quotable change, but the recent advance is scarcely sustained. It is generally assumed that the weakness is only temporary, and that business will resume its former activity when the holiday season is past. There continues a fair demand for all kinds of unmanufactured wool, and 30@32c is reported from Philadelphia. Producers in the interior are still firm—their demands being equal to the present prices, at least. The sales of domestic in Boston Association at 60c @ 61c pulled, 46@48 bags short do. 58c; do low super, 55c; 3,000 fine combing and delaine, 56c; 50 bales spring California, 20c do tail do, 15,000 lbs tub washed, and 9 bales do, 50c.

Mr. James Lynch, in his circular of 2d inst., gives the following figures:

Arrivals at this port from January 1 to December 1—

	1872.	1871.
Foreign	bales. 70,417	77,848
Domestic	39,762	89,449
Cashmere, &c.	4,574	6,145
Total	114,677	173,441

Shipping List.

Louisville Market.

LOUISVILLE, December 5.—Bagging firm; hemps 8½. Coffee—nothing doing. Sugar—prime, steady and common and quiet and unchanged. Hogs firm and in fair demand, with sales at $5 35@5 60. Bulk meats in good demand; shoulders 6c; clear rib sides 6½c; clear sides 6¾c. Lard unchanged. Corn—white 45c; mixed 43c; yellow 43c; clear rib sides 6½c; clear sides 6¾c. Flams firm at 13c from block. Whisky firm at 89c.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 5, 1872.

RECEIPTS.

	Cattle. No.	Hogs. No.	Sheep. No.	Hor's. No.	Mules. No.
	head.	head.	head.	head.	head.
Thursday, Nov. 28	1,000	6,800	1,200	.....	.....
Friday, Nov. 29	1,200	5,200	1,000	15	17
Saturday, Nov. 30	40	2,600	.....	.....	.....
Sunday, Dec. 1	1,200	6,000	2,000	125	.....
Monday, Dec. 2	1,500	3,000	1,800	.....	.....
Tuesday, Dec. 3rd	1,000	7,000	3,000	.....	.....
Wednesday, Dec. 4th	Up till noon nothing reported.				
Total	6,800	28,000	13,800	30	17
Last week	2,018	9,800	7,000	.....	.....

SHIPMENTS.

	Cattle. No.	Hogs. No.	Sheep. No.	Hor's. No.	Mules. No.
	head.	head.	head.	head.	head.
Thursday, Nov. 28	1,562	6,561	2,805	.....	.....
Friday, Nov. 29	945	3,231	1,000	15	.....
Saturday, Nov. 30	1,000	6,000	2,500	15	.....
Monday, Dec. 2	900	3,700	1,000	15	17
Tuesday, Dec. 3	1,000	3,900	1,000	.....	.....
Wednesday, Dec. 4	32	3,300	1,400	.....	.....
Total	6,005	27,125	14,600	30	17
Last week	2,485	8,325	8,400	10	.....

Cattle.

At the time of closing our last report we stated that the run of cattle coming light had caused a better feeling, and the market closed on Friday firm at figures about 10c better than at the opening. This week the receipts were light up to and including Tuesday, and were common in quality. A fair number of buyers from the country were here but not much was done, as most of them were holding back expecting a heavier run. In this they have been disappointed, as the receipts of cattle intended for sale at this point are the lightest for some time, and with an additional number of buyers prices are higher than on Tuesday, and money could have been saved by purchasing then. On Wednesday the market opened firm, with a fair inquiry for all grades, Country buyers have taken hold freely and the sales made are on an average 15c higher than last week. The demand for prime cattle is fair, and anything that is good does not remain long unsold this week. By reference to sales it will be seen that several bunches of cattle have been sold at $5 and at $5 37 per hundred pounds. The cattle were the very best and the price is considered a top one. At this writing the market is active and firm, and but little cattle now offering. The advance and strong feeling was a surprise by the light run and not by any improvement East, and tonight's run been heavy the market would have ruled bad for any very good cattle. The holiday season is over.

Fresh Cows.

The run light. The demand is good and prime milkers sell well; prices range from $40 to $65, according to quality, &c.

Bulls.

The number of bulls on sale this week small. Privat butcher stock sells at figures varying from $2 75 to $3 50. Mr. C. W. Downes was at the yards intending to purchase stock for still houses, but the number offered was so few that he could not commence to buy, knowing he could not get enough to make a drove.

Prices.

Extra to 1,500 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $7 00 to $7 50; extra 1,400 lbs fine and smooth, $6 50 to $6 75; prime 1,200 lbs steers, fine and smooth, $5 75 to $6 25; prime 1,200 lbs, fine and smooth, $5 25 to $5 50; fair 1,100 lbs fine and smooth, $5 00 to $5 25; fair 1,000 lbs $4 25 to $4 50; common $3 75 to $4 00; stockers $3 25 to $3 75. Bulls $2 50 to $3 50.

Hogs.

At the time of writing our last report the hog market was dull and declining, and the yards full of unsold stock. Since then there has been no change for the better, but on the contrary, the market is worse. During the week past the receipts have amounted to twenty-eight thousand head, and with an large run and no packers taking any stock, and the Eastern markets glutted, our market here has been steadily declining for a week past. Hogs are selling lower to-day than any time for five years, and may go even lower, as the trade is dull and supply largely in excess of the demand.

Prices.

Extra Philadelphia, $4 20; prime do, $4 10 to $4 15; prime Yorkers, $4 00; common do, $3 85 to $3 95.

Sheep.

The run of sheep so far this week has been light. The quality of the offerings is common. Buyers want good stock, and as it is not here some are not purchasing. The market sales slow, though firmer than last week. At this writing it looks as if the run would prove light for the balance of the week, and if so trade will move at about present prices.

Prices.

Extra to 100 lbs, fine wool, $5 75@5 85; extra 93 lbs, fine wool, $5 75; extra 90 lbs, fine wool, $5 75; good, $5 25@5 50; prime, 80 lbs, $4 25@4 50.

Cattle.

HAZLEWOOD & BLACKSTOCK SOLD

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
4	4,870	4 65	3	3,240	3 35
20	20,080	4 50	19	19,570	3 50
2	2,720	5 25	3	2,570	5 00
2	2,110	3 75	2	2,070	3 75
6	6,350	4 87½	1	1,340	3 00
4	4,850	4 25	1	1,000	3 00
17	18,300	5 10@ 2	2	2,815	5 40
1	830	3 00	1	970	4 00

HEDGES, HUFF & CO. SOLD

17	17,290	4 75@18	16	16,710	4 00
19	17,790	4 00@18	18	17,410	4 25
4	4,770	3 25@18	18	19,870	6 25
18	18,040	4 87½@18	18	19,740	4 00
1	1,110	5 00@18	18	18,920	3 50
1	1,060	4 00@18	18	2,940	3 00
19	20,750	5 12½@12	12	12,810	4 00
2	1,960	3 00@18	18	22,340	4 00
21	23,080	6 25@18	18	20,470	5 00
1	1,000	3 00@18	18	18,000	4 00
4	3,340	4 00@18	18	18,870	4 00

SMITH, WATSON & BRIGGS SOLD

16	19,370	5 70@16	16	19,330	5 70
19	20,440	4 25@18	18	19,020	4 00
22	16,690	2 75@18	18	17,790	6 00
18	18,710	4 50@18	18	19,440	4 75
1	1,460	4 75@21	21	19,740	4 25
2	1,890	4 00@5	5	3,500	3 75
2	1,960	3 50@18	18	18,750	4 00
21	23,270	4 75@18	18	18,670	3 65
12	12,920	5 00@12	12	11,090	4 00
1	1,140	4 00@18	18	19,800	5 40
1	1,000	3 00@18	18	18,870	3 00
2	2,390	2 50@	.....	.....	.....

ORR, WILLIAMS & LOUGHREY SOLD

17	20,080	6 62½	32	39,830	6 25

HOLMES, LAFFERTY, GLASS & CO. SOLD

1	1,220	2 50	19	19,410	4 37
2	2,860	4 00	36	40,570	5 75
16	20,630	7 00	8	6,080	4 25
24	25,840	6 75	31	35,870	5 87
21	21,000	4 25	20	23,740	6 00
1	1,000	3 00	.....	.....	.....
2	2,140	4 00	1	800	4 00
1	1,000	3 00	1	1,210	3 00
4	3,970	2 50	12	10,270	3 00
2	2,100	4 00	20	19,240	4 00
1	1,000	3 00	1	1,000	3 00
18	18,420	5 00	18	22,220	6 30
1	1,000	3 00	.....	.....	.....
18	17,950	6 50	3	3,110	5 25
2	2,000	4 00	1	2,220	4 00
15	17,020	5 87½	.....	.....	.....

Hogs.

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO. SOLD

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
1	6,650	5 50@202		14,000	4 75
10	13,990	5 25@105		10,350	4 75
4	14,530	5 75@105		7,350	5 50
12	14,460	5 12			

HEDGES, HUFF & CO. SOLD

105	7,740	5 00@ 80		9 head.	1 50
118	15,810	5 12	234	18,980	4 65
118	15,470	4 90	177	13,960	4 90
119	9,040	5 25	103	7,560	4 12
117	17,950	4 65	99	7,230	5 00
118	18,140	4 90	176	18,290	4 75
118	15,220	5 15	184	15,020	4 90
104	16,650	4 15	162	8,050	5 37
118	15,300	4 90	191	15,110	4 75

HOLMES, LAFFERTY & CO.

25	3,800	4 50	17	4,240	4 25
25	4,000	4 75	22	4,660

THE VERY LATEST.

MURDER MOST FOUL.

Citizen of Eldersville, Washington County, Killed in His Bed.

A Piece of Tubing, Charged With Powder and Slugs, the Death Weapon.

Possible Clue to the Murderer.

Arrest of Accused Last Night.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO, December 5, 1872.

A horrible murder was committed at Eldersville, Pa., a few miles east of this city, about twelve o'clock last night, the victim being Mr. John Allingham, a merchant of that place. Some unknown person or persons loaded a piece of tubing, or gas pipe, about five feet long and two inches in the bore, with powder and slugs, placed it on a shed of platform on a level with the window and fired it into the room where Mr. Allingham and his wife were sleeping. Mr. Allingham's head was partly blown off, and his wife received some slight scratches. No clue has been found to the perpetrator of this terrible deed.

Another Account.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HANLIN'S, PA., December 5, 1872.

The pretty little village of Eldersville is greatly excited over a terrible murder perpetrated last night. In a neat little two story frame, located in the center of the village, lived John Allingham and his wife Elizabeth. Allingham kept a small store, but was about quitting business. He lived with his wife and her brother, at the house where the deed was committed. He was about fifty-five years of age, and a quiet, peaceful man.

The first alarm of the murder was given by Mrs. Allingham, who was in bed with her husband at the time. She left the bed and ran up stairs to her brother's room, crying that John was murdered, and that the house was on fire. George, the brother, came down stairs and saw deceased lying in bed with about nine inches in diameter of his head blown off. The pillow was saturated with blood and the bolster on fire. Mrs. Allingham entered the room and pulled the bolster from the bed. This turned the body over slightly. Mrs. Allingham and her brother roused the neighbors and made a survey of the premises, but obtained no clue of the perpetrator.

The instrument used was of the most murderous description. A piece of gas pipe, four and a half feet long and an inch and a quarter in diameter, was fastened on a strip of wood two and a half inches wide, and seven feet six inches long. The pipe must have contained at least half a pound of powder and over a pound of slugs, chopped off a pig of lead. The bed in which the deceased was lying was two feet from the window looking out on the porch. The stick, with pipe tied to it with broom corn was laid from the railing of the porch to the window-sill. The end of the pipe battered tight, save a small hole for fuse. The latter was at least thirty feet long, and burned about twenty minutes before reaching the charge. The contents of the pipe passed through the window blind, head-board of the bed, and then took away one side of the deceased's head. A more devilish or effective method of death was never seen before.

The only clue thus far points to a copper-colored negro named John Hawk, *alias* Briceland, who has been heard to make threats against the deceased for testifying in a forgery case in court. He is five feet six inches high, slim built, smooth face, sharp features, and wore a check shirt and dark clothes. He was last seen here on Monday.

The Coroner's inquest is now in session and will adjourn till to-morrow. Nothing outside of what is given above has been adduced. Detective Joseph Cupples, of the Pittsburgh police, is here and on the track of Briceland.

Arrest of the Supposed Murderer.

HANLIN'S, PA., December 6, 12:40 A. M.

About ten o'clock to-night the villagers assembled around the stove at Cooper's store, when suddenly there was a cry down the road. "They have got him." In a few minute Constable Porter, Chas. Hanlin and Joseph Crisp came up the road with the arrested man, Briceland in custody. He was taken to the room at the hotel where the jury was in session, and furnished with a seat near the fire. He looked perfectly calm, and was certainly very cool. About one hundred persons were assembled in and about the hotel anxious to get a glimpse at the alleged murderer. Squire Stewart approached him and read the warrant upon which he was arrested. The Squire asked, "are you innocent or guilty of the charge?" Briceland replied, very calmly, "I claim to be innocent. I know nothing of the murder; first heard of it at the cross roads this morning. Why suspicion is thrown on me I don't know. John didn't like me, I know, and I confess I didn't like him. But as to killing him, I never did it, nor do I know anything of it." He further said he had been at Chaplin Truexa's on Wednesday and Thursday, and then went to Mr. Wright's, at Paris station. Last Monday and Tuesday he was in Eldersville; had supper last night and slept at Truexa's and ate dinner at Wright's to-day. He was shown the gas pipe and the stick to which it was bound, and from which the fatal shot was fired. He examined them carefully, but denied ever having seen them before. Mrs. Allingham was examined and says she believes Briceland killed her husband. The prisoner is in custody for the night, and the inquest adjourned until to-morrow morning. Briceland was arrested at Jacob Wright's farm house, in Hanock county, West Virginia. He made no resistance.

Suicide of Gen. Maxwell, at Dayton, O.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DAYTON, OHIO, December 5, 1872.

This evening, at half-past six o'clock, the guests of the Phillips House were startled by the report of a pistol. On investigation it was found that Gen. C. C. Maxwell had shot himself in the head with a revolver, while his family were at supper, he having told his wife to go and he would follow her in a few minutes. Gen. Maxwell was a highly respected citizen. He was a General in the Army of the Cumberland, and was also Internal revenue collector of the Third Ohio district. He was 57 years of age, and two children to mourn his untimely fate. Financial embarrassment is said to have been the cause of the act.

Centennial Commission Meeting.

PHILADELPHIA, December 5.—A meeting of the Centennial Commission to-day, Commissioner Golbright, of the District of Columbia, introduced a resolution having in view a petition to the proper authority that on or before the fourth of July, 1876, the coin of the United States for each device and inscription as will recognize the great event then to be commemorated. The proposition was unanimously approved. A discussion took place in relation to plans for centennial buildings, but it is improbable that there will be ready to present to Congress before the termination of the present session.

Ohio State Dental Society.

COLUMBUS, O., December 5.—At the meeting of the State Dental Society to-day, a committee was appointed in each county to ascertain who are practicing dentistry in Ohio in violation of law, and to provide for their prosecution. Money was appropriated for continuing the fight against the Goodyear Rubber Company's demands.

ADDITIONAL RIVER DISPATCHES.

St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, MO., December 5.—Arrived—Joe Kinney, Vicksburg. River falling slowly; clear and colder. The Bebbage College, of Pike, and Joe Fleming are laying at or near Devil's Islands and cannot discharge. Ice reporter aground, but in no danger. The Mary E. Hill is fast in the ozers, and efforts are being made to get a boat to go down to relieve her.

Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG, December 5.—No boats up or down to-day. Clear and cool. River falling.

Memphis.

MEMPHIS, December 5.—Weather, cloudy, with indications of rain. River falling steadily. Departed—Bismarck and Yeager, New Orleans; Fanny Lewis, Vicksburg; Legal Tender, Cairo; Tom Allen, Little Rock.

New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, December 5.—Arrived—John R. Meade, Henry Amos, City of Quincy, Susie Silver, St. Louis; Belle Lee, Memphis. Departed—Continental, St. Louis. Cloudy and warm.

COTTON MARKETS.

New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, December 5.—Cotton firm; sales 6,000 bales; receipts 18,868 bales; exports—continent 2,700 bales; Liverpool 3,876 bales; stock 82,782 bales; consolidated 83,782 bales; stock 134,342 bales.

Mobile.

MOBILE, December 5.—Cotton—Net receipts 2,208 bales; exports—coastwise 300 bales; sales 900 bales; stock 36,240 bales.

Charleston.

CHARLESTON, December 5.—Cotton firmer; middlings 18½@18¾c; low middlings 18@18½c; net receipts 1,800 bales; sales 1,000 bales; stock 45,000 bales.

Galveston.

GALVESTON, December 5.—Cotton firm; good ordinary 18½c; net receipts 2,319 bales; sales 1,900 bales; last evening 11,900 bales; stock 58,467 bales.

Savannah.

SAVANNAH, December 4.—Cotton steady; middling 18½c; exports—coastwise 1,323 bales; constwise 1,245 bales; sales 2,691 bales; stock 7,897 bales.

Buffalo Cattle Market.

BUFFALO, December 5.—Cattle—Receipts to-day 476 head; total for the week 2,000; for 2 or 3d days, against 20 cars same time last week. Market quiet on account of light run; sales cannot be conducted at outside rates; common stock neglected, they being of sale in the grade. Sales 86 Ohio steers, 1,150 lbs., at $5 25@5 50; 27 Ohio heifers, 699 lbs., at $3 40; 146 Illinois steers, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs., at $5 50@5 87½; 240 Indiana do., 1,015 to 1,400 lbs., at $4 62½@5 40; 60 Missouri do., 920 to 1,261 lbs., at $4 50@5 00; 8 Illinois and Missouri cows, 1,000 lbs. each, selling a total for the week thus far, 7,400 head, against 10,600 last week. Market dull at yesterday's prices. The run this week was of inferior grade; sales of 40 to 50 carloads choice and fancy steers for the week at $5 50@5 90. Canada lambs, 75 lbs., at $3 30; 307 Indiana sheep, 112 lbs., at $4 75. Hogs—Receipts to-day 4,000 head, making a total for the week thus far of 29,300, against 37,000 the same time last week. Market 10c per cwt. lower; prices ruled, $4 1 head 25; entire packed to arrive; heavy grades ruled $4 75@4 90; Yorkers $4 90@5 00; mixed $4 75@4 90; pigs $4 50@4 60; roughs $3 75@4 00; stags $3 00@3 50. 13 Ohio packed hogs, 207 lbs., at $4 25.

Chicago Cattle Market.

CHICAGO, December 5.—Cattle—receipts 1,600 head; quality fair; market active and firm; several choice lots sold at $5 75@6 00; fair to good shipping steers $4 25@5 40; fair to good cows $3 00@3 50; stockers $3 00@3 50; Texas steers $3 00@4 00 for fair to good; bulls $2 50@3 00; calves $3 00@4 00 for fair to good. Hogs—receipts of sales at $3 90@4 00 for light; $4 00@4 10 for fair to good mixed; $4 10@4 25 for heavy; packers and shippers $4 10@4 25; receipts 4,000 head; sales at $3 80@4 25.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

The New Road in Mexico.

Philadelphians Investing Largely.

Progress During the Present Year.

Trunk Lines for Freighting.

Increase of Traffic on the Grand Trunk of Canada—Canadian Pacific Survey Completed—Earnings of English Roads—Better Protection for Immigrants.

Texas and California Road—The Enterprise in Mexico.

PHILADELPHIA, December 5.—The stockholders of the Texas and California Railroad held a meeting to-day. A letter was read from Gen. G. W. Dodge, Chief Engineer, showing rapid progress in the work of pushing the road to completion.

Philadelphians interested in the proposed new railroad in Mexico have described large sums of money, some as high as $50,000. The road, it is said, will run from the city of Mexico to the Rio Grande, a distance of five hundred miles, and will connect with it direct from the Rio Grande to Denver, which is eight hundred miles more. It is to be three feet gauge.

Railroad Progress.

The Chicago *Inter-Ocean* says: Compared with 1871, the year about to close exhibits a considerable falling off in the railroad progress of the country. The chief cause of this decrease is that most of the necessary railways needed to meet the present actual requirements of commerce have been constructed; so that the opportunities for new lines are not so promising.

The condition of the foreign money market during the past year has also been such as to unfavorably affect investments in American roads. The magnificent speculations of German investors in our government bonds, by which many of those purchasing realized even 100 per cent. on our 5-20s of 1862, caused a demand to spring up in Great Britain some two or three years since for American securities of all descriptions, including State and railway bonds. Some of these, however, not turning out well, being in the hands of bad or unscrupulous managers, a reaction set in a few months ago, which has not yet run its course. Thus has been intensified by the failure of the Chicago and Southwestern railroad to pay its interest in specie as per contract. The result has been that during the past few months a large amount of American securities have been thrown upon the London market. Upon a large portion of such securities money has also been borrowed, the Germans being tempted—by the impulse given to speculations of all kinds in the German States—to invest in more profitable ventures and speculative undertakings at home. It is said that many Germans, who a few years since considered our six-per-cents a most desirable investment, are not now satisfied with less than ten to twelve per cent., which in many instances they are realizing in the numerous undertakings of a highly speculative character of late set on foot in the large commercial centers of the North German and Austrian Empires.

Another reason for the falling off in the number of miles of railroad construct-ed is the high price of rails the present year as compared with 1871. The following table, taken from the *Iron Age*, will show how extraordinary and unprecedented has been the advance in the principal material entering into the construction of railways.

	January 1, 1871.	January 1, 1872.
Welsh iron (gold).....	$55 00@56 50	$58 00@60 00
American iron (currency)..	68 00@70 00	70 00@72 00
Steel (gold).....	87 50	98 00
	January 1, 1871.	January 1, 1872.
Welsh iron (gold).....	$56 00@57 50	$72 00@74 00
American iron (currency)..	70 00	83 00@86 00
Steel (gold).....	87 50	107 50
	November 1, 1871.	November 1, 1872.
Welsh iron (gold).....	$57 00@58 50	$79 00
American iron (currency)..	71 00@72 00	80 00@82 00
Steel (gold).....	97 50	110 00

Still another reason for the falling off in railway construction—the fact that the system of counties, cities and towns voting to saddle themselves with the obligations of our railway companies has received a very serious check, if it has not been almost entirely put an end to. The war evil which had grown to such proportions that it became absolutely necessary that it should be repressed altogether. It is by no means that it has run its course, and most probably effected its own ruin.

The primary need of the next few years, the *Inter-Ocean* thinks, is great trunk lines exclusively for freighting purposes, and branches mainly for travel. These are now about to be provided to some extent, and after a beginning has been made, especially in the West and Northwest, have increased in number and capacity out of all proportion to the main trunks connecting the Atlantic and the Mississippi on the one hand. The result is that, while the trunk roads are choked with travel and traffic, and have been compelled to raise their rates to figures extremely oppressive to the producing and manufacturing interests of our country, the roads in the West and Northwest are not doing a profitable business. On the contrary, proving to be not-paying in the hands of their stockholders, and are rapidly transferring their investments to the great West street magnates controlling the trunk lines. This tendency, which operates like the law of gravitation, not only in this country but in England, will bring the entire railway system under the control of a few wealthy individuals. In England the system has proved a curse to the country, and has come to be regarded as a substitute for wood, so far as practicable.

CITY MATTERS.

Letters Held for Postage, December 5, 1872.

Cents.

Benziger Brothers, New York, N. Y.....2
Mrs. Emma Hopkins, Hamsneville, Ohio.....2
Harry Fleming, Darlington, Pa.....2
John Kennedy, Philadelphia, Pa.....1

JOHN H. STEWART, P. M.

Bitten by a Ferocious Dog.

A lady named Mrs. Trant, residing on Seventeenth street, Birmingham, was bitten on Wednesday evening by a ferocious dog, when within a few squares of her home. The unfortunate woman was passing near the premises where the dog was confined, when he broke his chain and attacked her, tearing the flesh off her arm from the elbow to the wrist. The lady fainted from the shock, and would have been completely at the mercy of the animal had not a gentleman who happened to be passing at once come to the rescue and beat him off. The injured lady was immediately carried to her residence and Dr. Rigg summoned, who dressed her wounds.

Child Burned.

A little daughter of Michael Donahue, residing at Temperanceville, was severely burned yesterday morning, about seven o'clock. Mrs. Donahue went to a grocery store, and left the girl who is only seven years old, in the house alone. She had not been gone long when neighbors were attracted to the house by the screams of the child. After the mother had torn open the door, they discovered that the child had fallen into the grate, where she was rescued from her perilous position, but not until her hands and shoulders were badly burned. A physician was at once summoned, who rendered all the aid in his power. The physician has hopes of saving the child's life.

An Expensive Cigar.

A man named James Ing, residing on Monterey street, Allegheny, had an unpleasant experience yesterday resulting from the habit of smoking. He had placed a cigar in his pocket having only partially extinguished the fire. He soon felt a burning sensation, and in a moment his pants were on fire He hurried up stairs, divested himself of this part of his clothing, and threw it in the bed, covering it with the bed clothes, expecting in this way to smother the flames. He was unsuccessful, however, and soon the bed caught fire. Word was sent to the Friendship Fire Company, and the alarm sounded. But soon the company with their apparatus was on hand, and extinguished the flames. No alarm was sounded.

BURSTING OF A GRIND STONE.

A Man Struck by One of the Fragments and Severely Injured.

About nine o'clock yesterday morning a terrible accident occurred at the file works of Messrs. Schingman & Eisenhardt, on Jane street, East Birmingham, by which one of the proprietors was severely injured. Mr. Schingman was engaged at the time in grinding some of his tools at a large grind stone, which was running with great velocity, when the stone suddenly burst into a thousand pieces and was carried in all directions. Mr. Schingman was struck on the head by one of the flying missiles and thrown a considerable distance, rendering him for the time being the workmen and conveyed to his home, near by, when Drs. Walter and Cable were summoned.

The physicians were promptly on hand and upon examination found that the skull just above the forehead was crushed in a frightful manner, and that he had received severe bruises. The surgeons found it necessary to remove a number of pieces from the skull, which was successfully done. The unfortunate man was somewhat improved last night, and strong hopes are entertained for his recovery.

A LEGAL BLUNDER CORRECTED.

Where Is He?

Discharge of John Haley.

The young man John Haley, committed to answer a charge of having murdered his step-father, Owen McNally, of Brandock borough, was brought before Judge Agnew, of the Quarter Sessions, yesterday, and his discharge asked for on the ground that no murder had been committed. In proof of the fact that McNally had not been murdered, he appeared in his own proper person. It was not disputed, however, that Haley had shot his step-father in the head, and the Court required him to enter bail in the sum of $5,000 to answer a charge of felonious assault and battery. Bonds in that amount were entered into, and the young man was discharged from custody.

The murder of something falsely reported to have arose in this way. McNally had made an assault upon his step-son (Haley) and the boy undertook to protect her. McNally then turned upon Haley, when the latter drew a common single barreled pistol. What then took place is not known, as the parties are all dead, but the ball struck McNally on the head, cutting the scalp, and letting out considerable blood. The shock knocked McNally senseless, and he lay as he had fallen for some hours. The young man fled, and the conviction that he had actually slain his stepfather; and when he subsequently surrendered himself to a justice in McKeesport, he confessed the "murder" and was committed to answer on the indictment being found. It is also well known that in regions comparatively unexplored, and where no mining has ever been done, that only hasty prospecting there are metallic resources equal to if not beyond, those which have been worked in the past. Facilities of transportation to and from the mining districts are being rapidly improved; railroads have not only reached the base of the mountain, but are penetrating the defiles, and some of the busiest centers of mining and reducing operations will soon echo to the voice of the locomotive. Cheap transportation will not only cheapen the winning of ores from the mines, by reducing the cost of supplies to the mines, but it will enable the mining has ever been done, but